



editor's choice



Story & Art by Junji Ito

From the creator of UZUMAKI

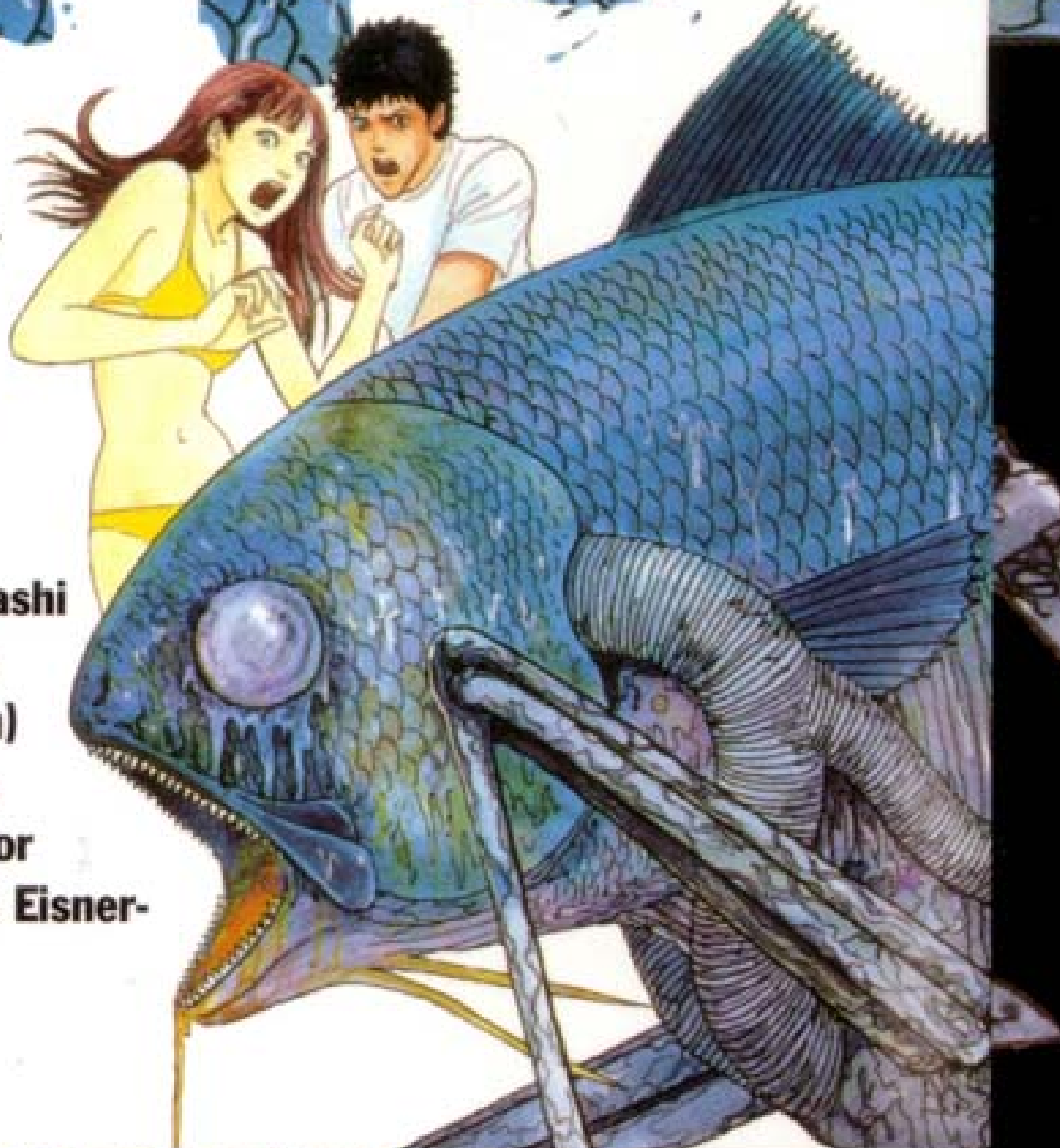


VIZ Graphic Novel

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# GRO

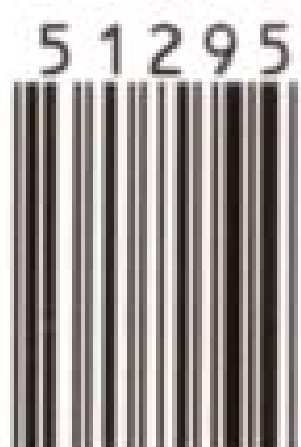
Something is rotten in Okinawa...the floating stench of death hangs over the island...What is it? A strange, legged fish appears on the scene...so begins Tadashi and Kaori's spiral into the horror (and stench) of the sea. Here is the long-awaited new horror manga series from the Eisner-nominated creator of *Uzumaki*, Junji Ito.



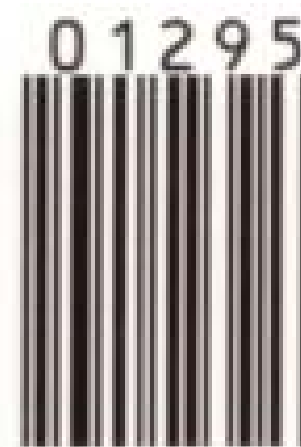
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STORY & ART BY  
**JUNJI ITO**



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**GYO VOLUME 1**

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*// The Death-  
Stench of the  
South Seas*



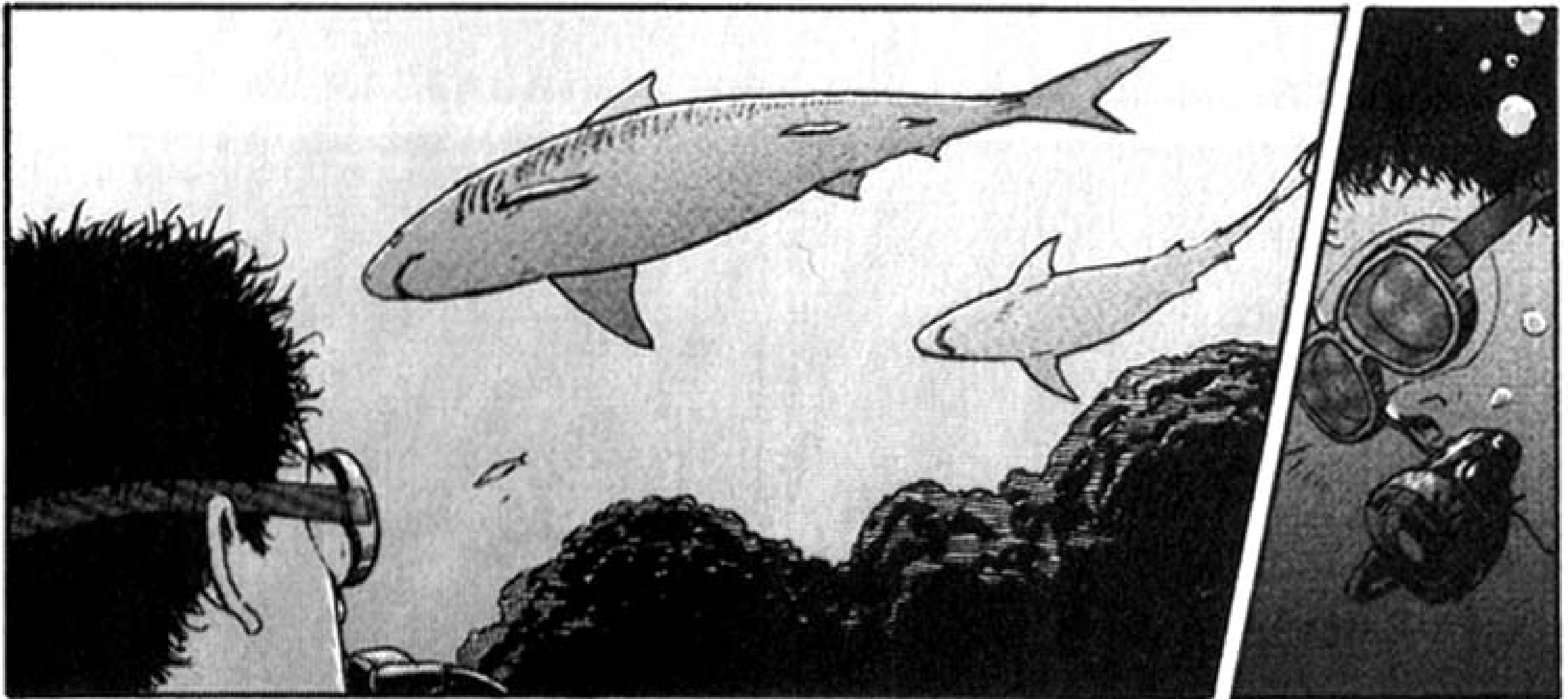
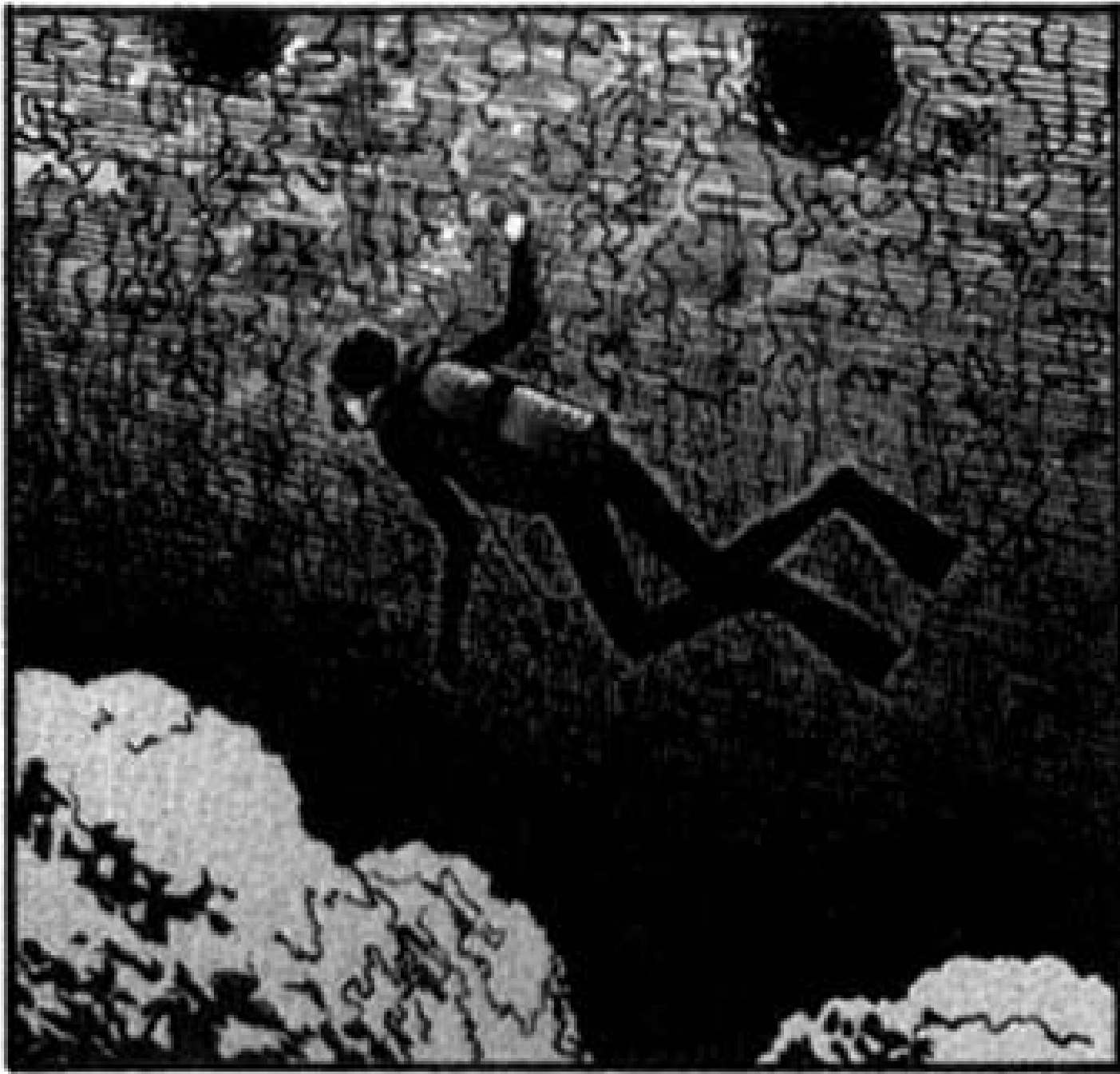




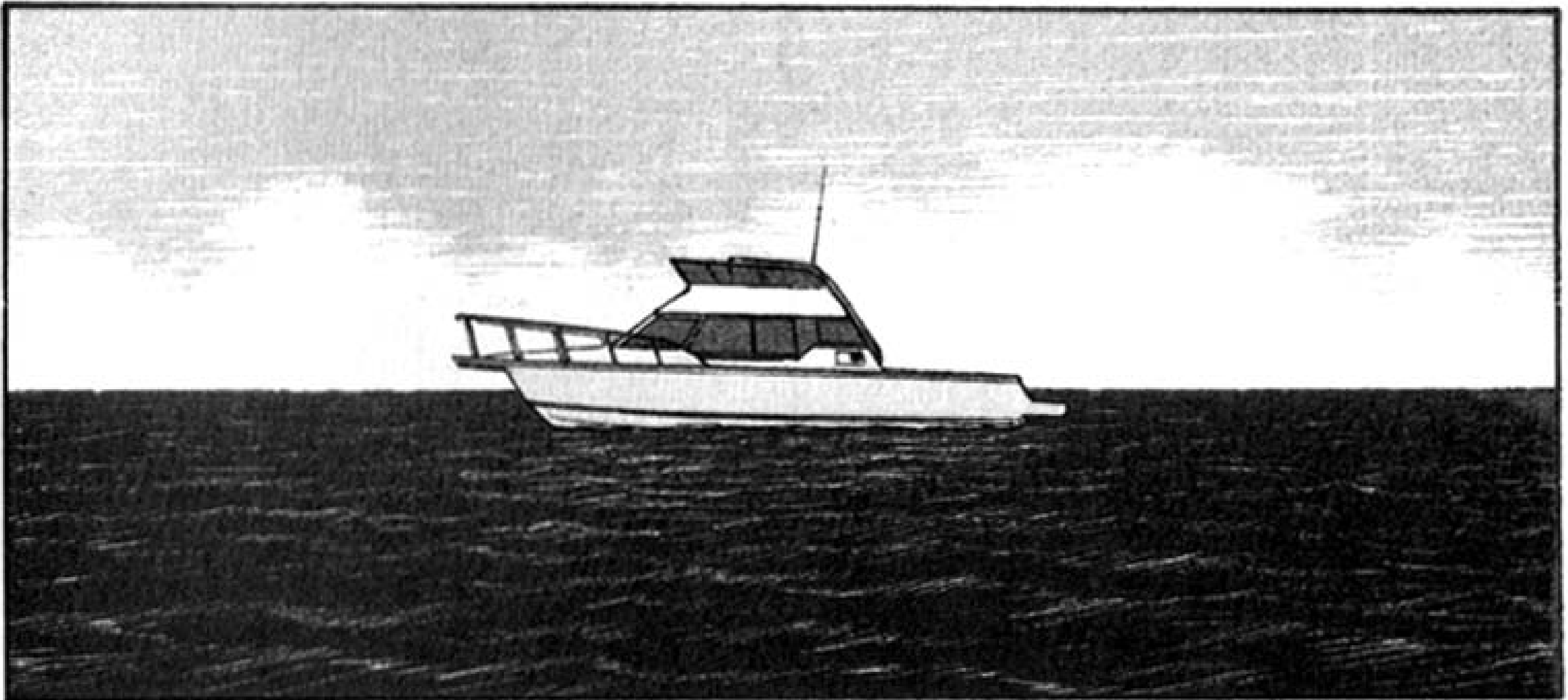
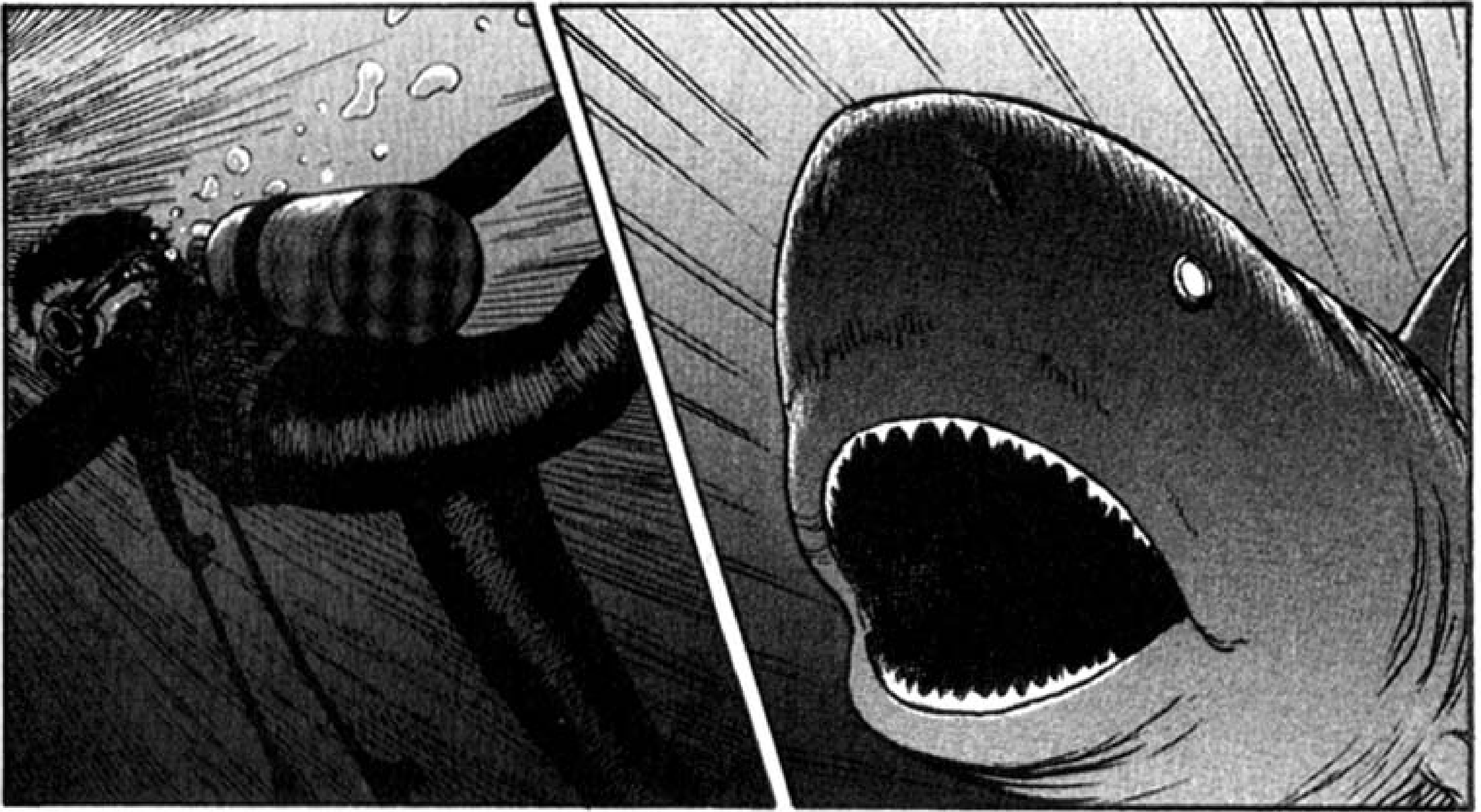
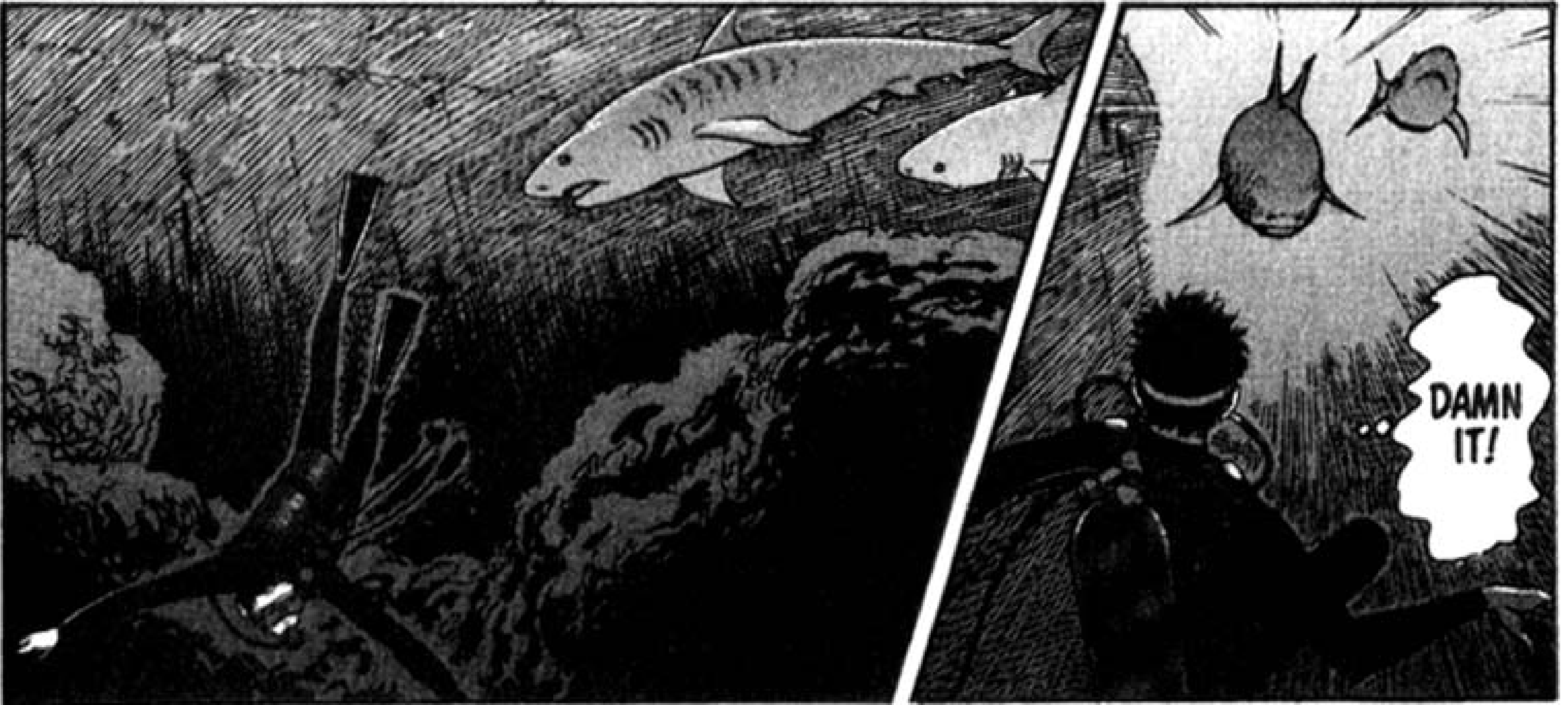






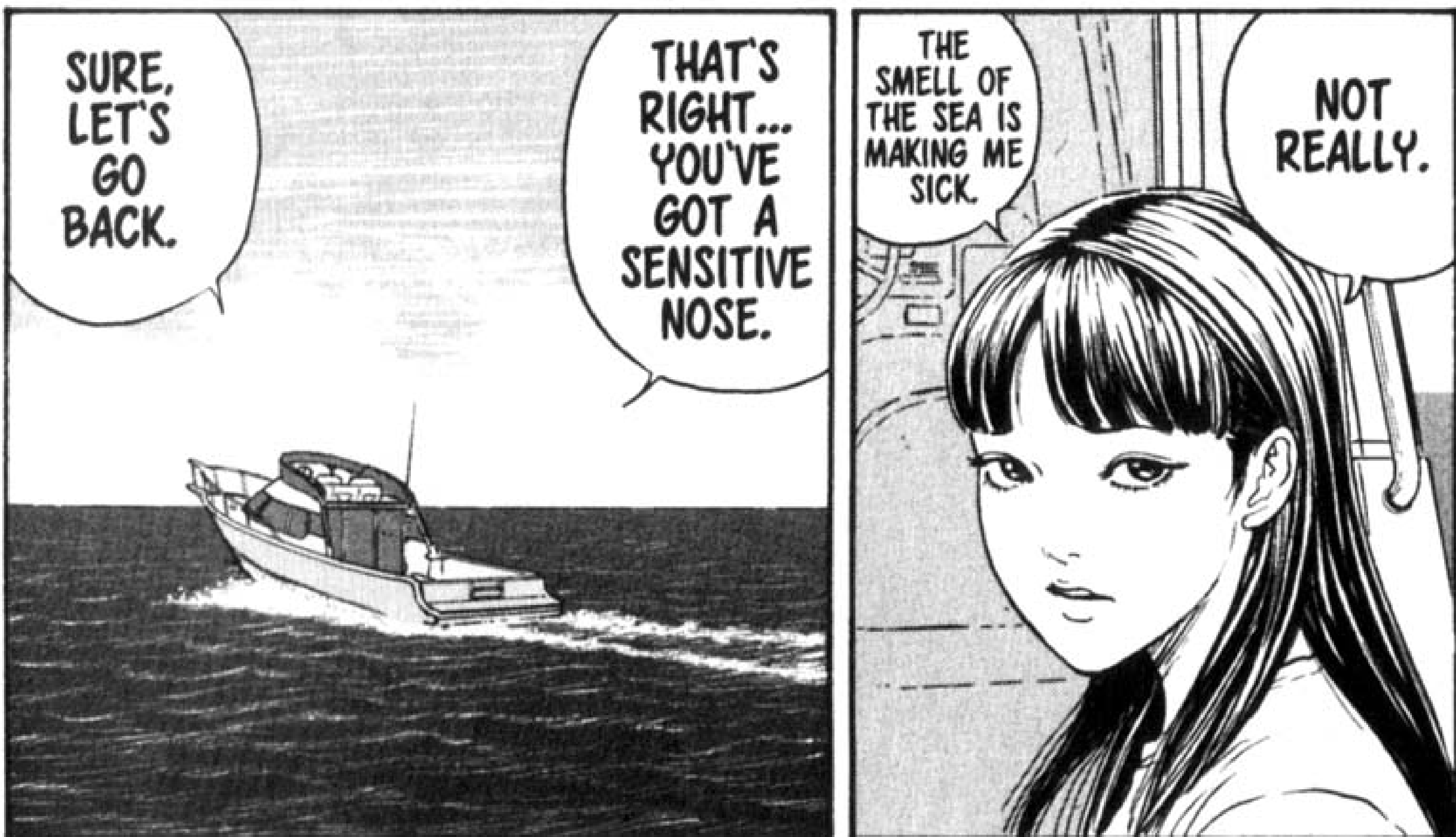
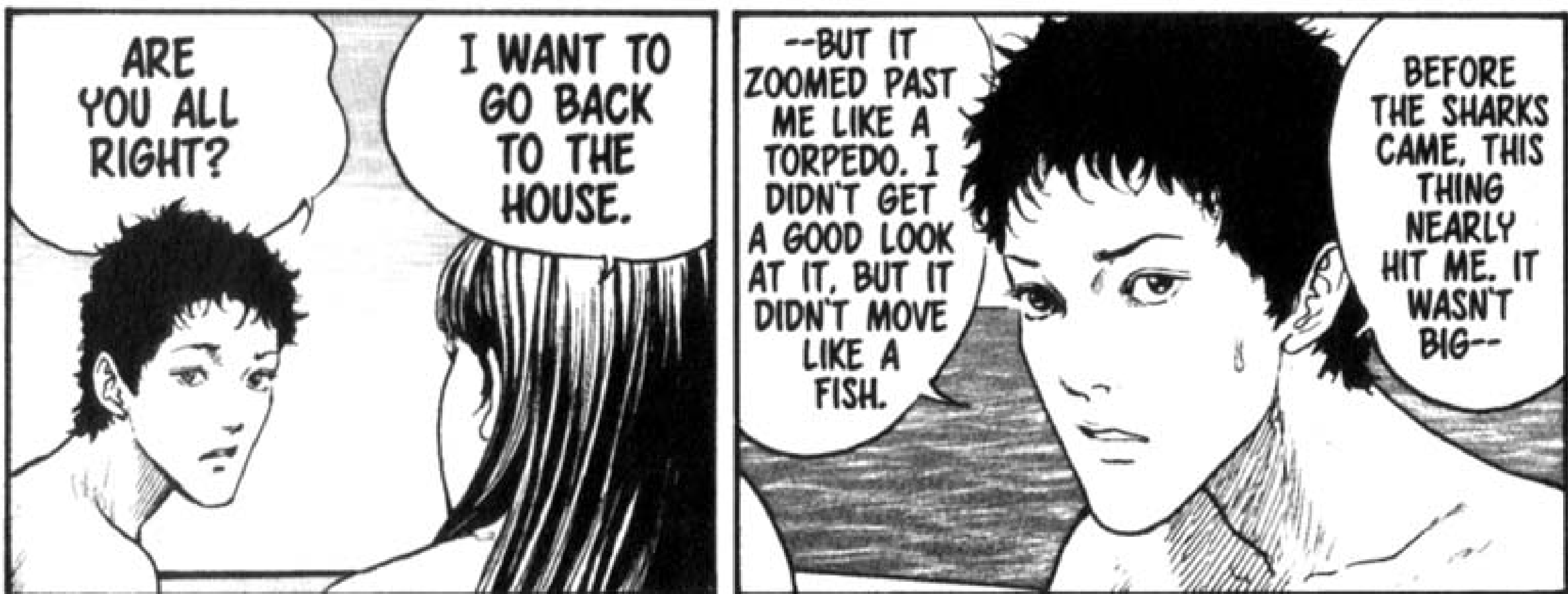
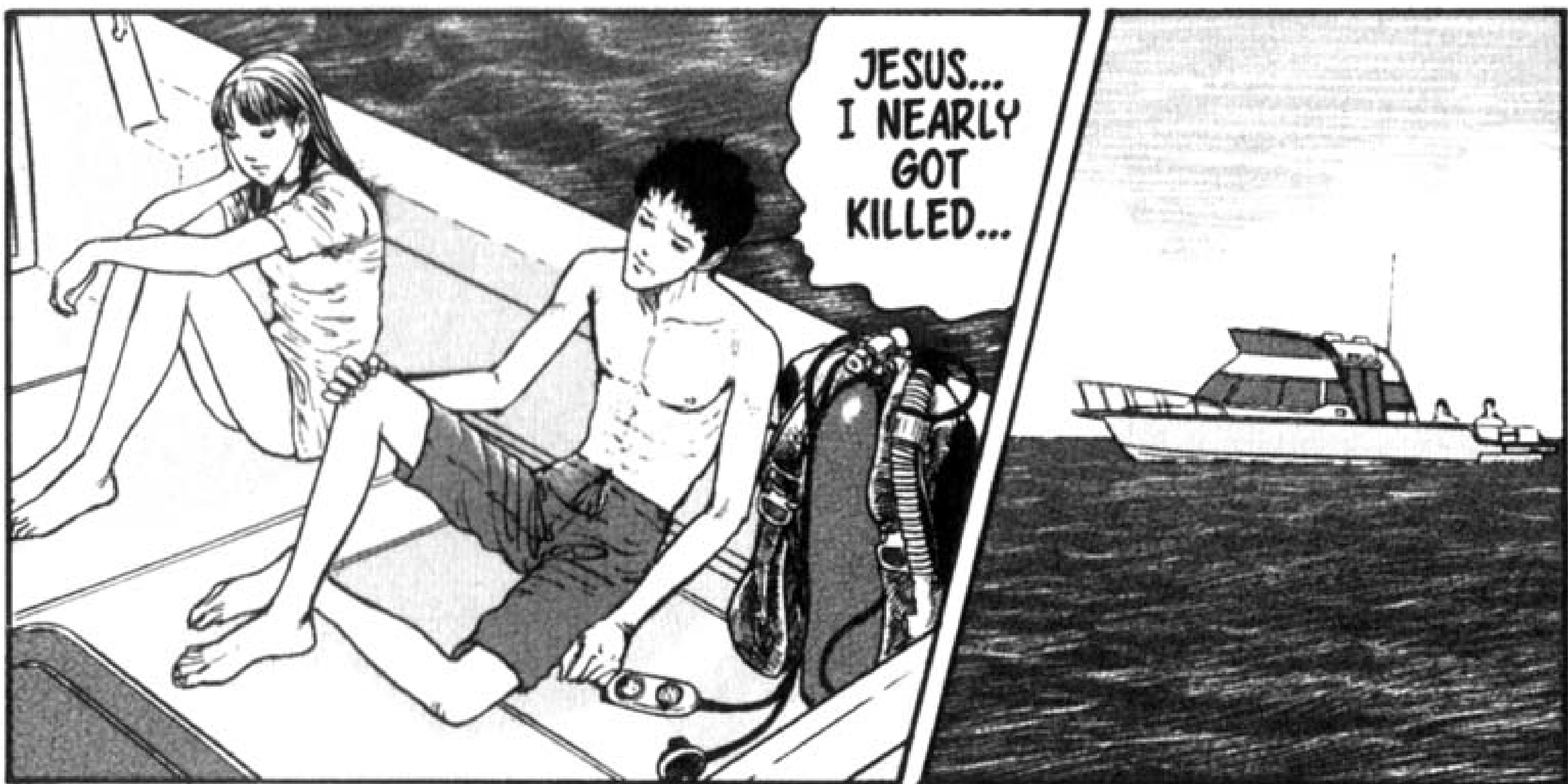


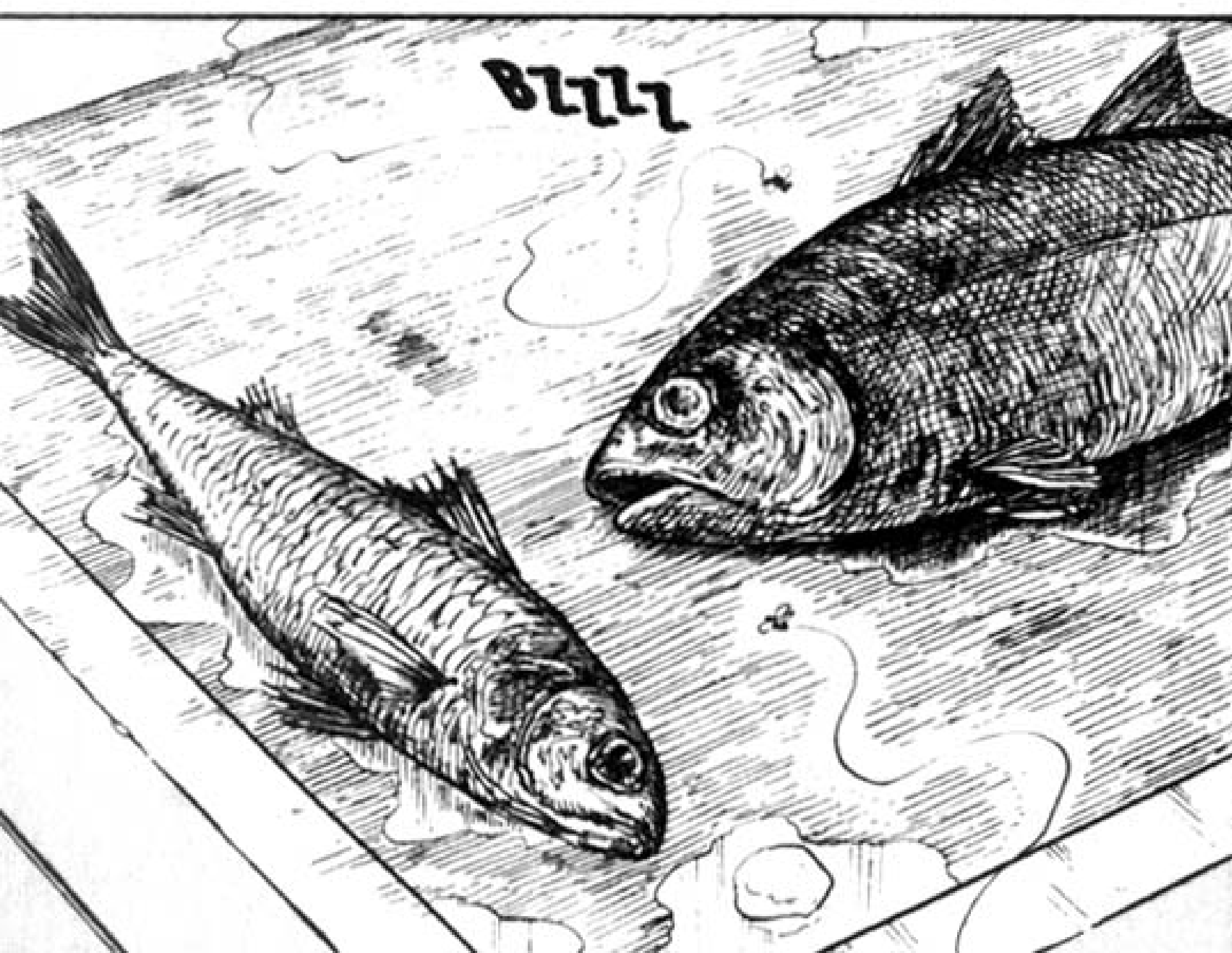
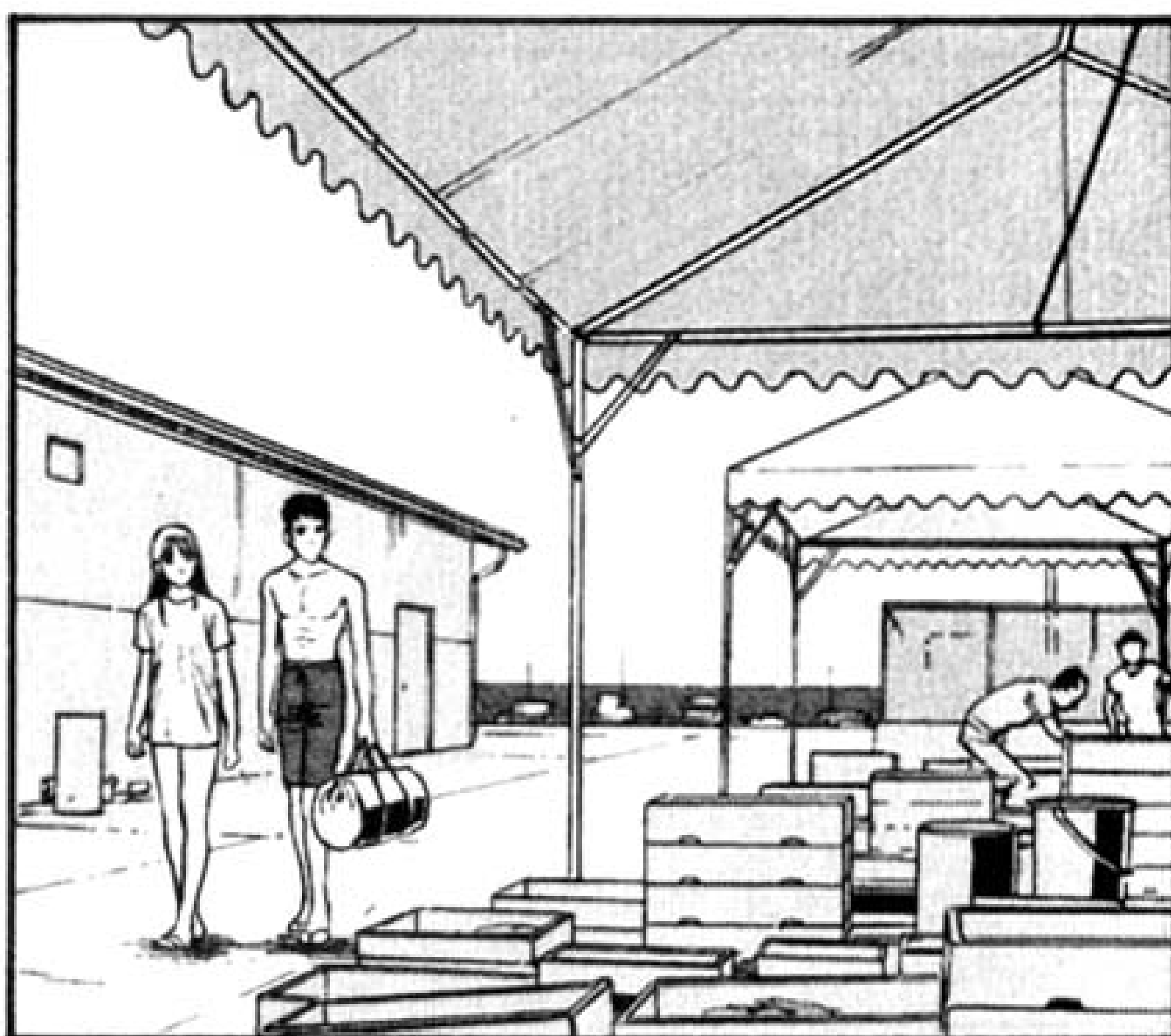




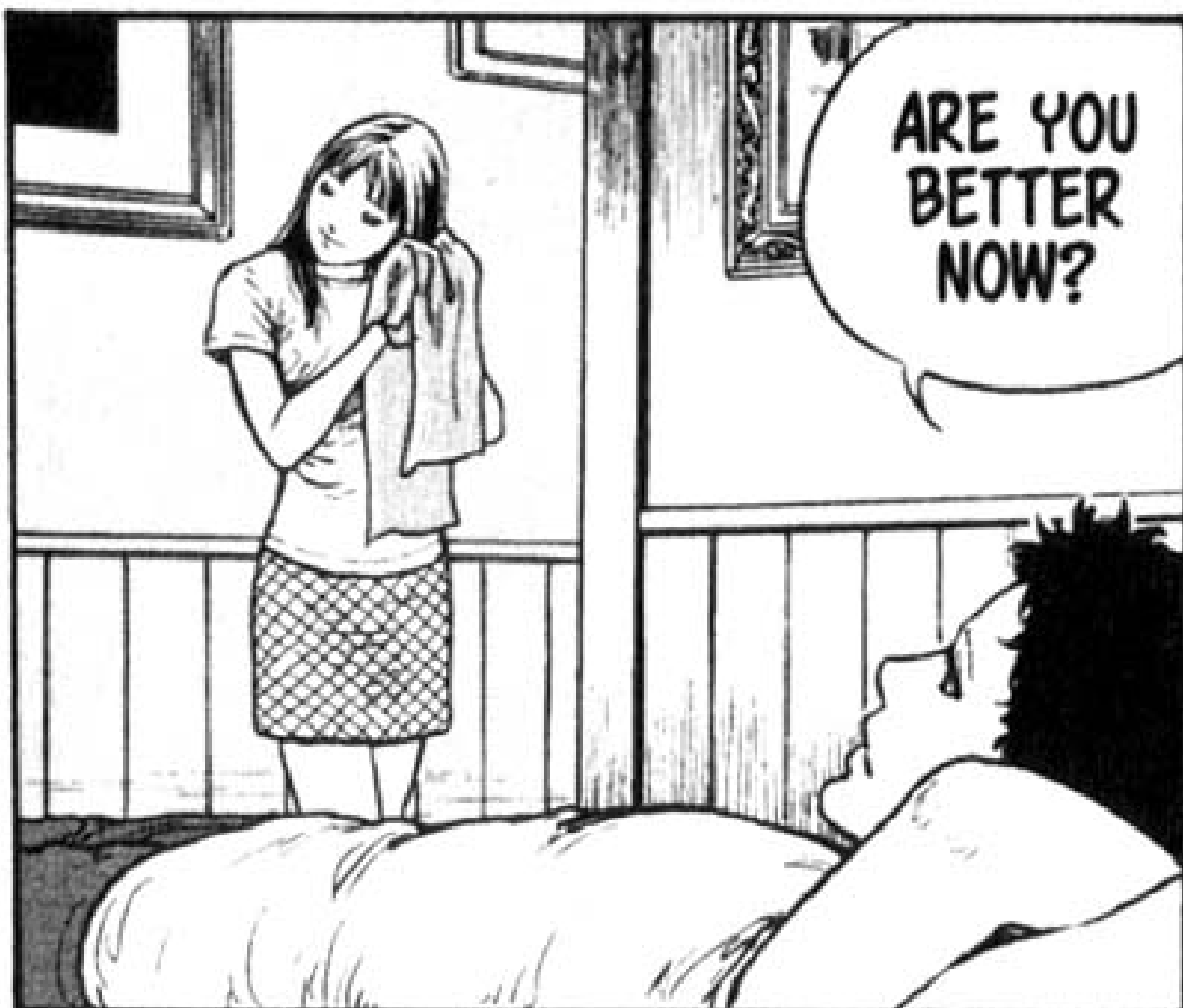
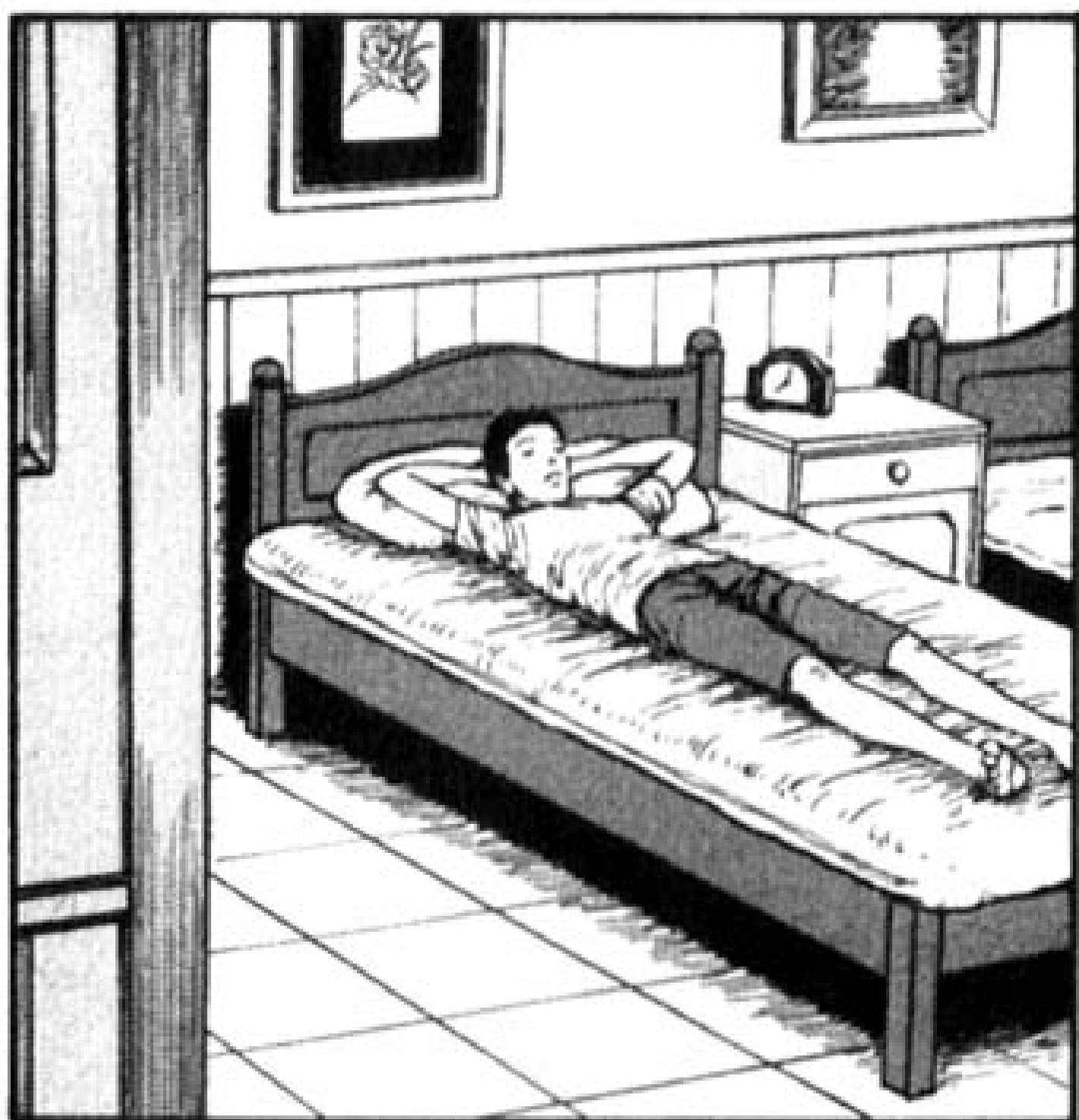














YES  
I DID. I  
JUST PUT  
UP WITH IT  
EVER SINCE  
WE STARTED  
GOING OUT.

BUT YOU  
DIDN'T  
MIND  
KISSING  
ME  
BEFORE.



I  
HAVE  
BAD  
BREATH  
?

H  
A  
H

JUST  
A  
LITTLE  
...



BUT  
I DO  
BRUSH  
MY  
TEETH...  
TWICE  
A DAY  
...



SO  
BRUSH  
YOUR  
TEETH  
FROM  
NOW  
ON,  
OKAY?

BUT  
I CAN'T  
TAKE IT  
ANY-  
MORE.



YOU  
JUST  
--



THAT  
WOULD  
BE  
NICE.



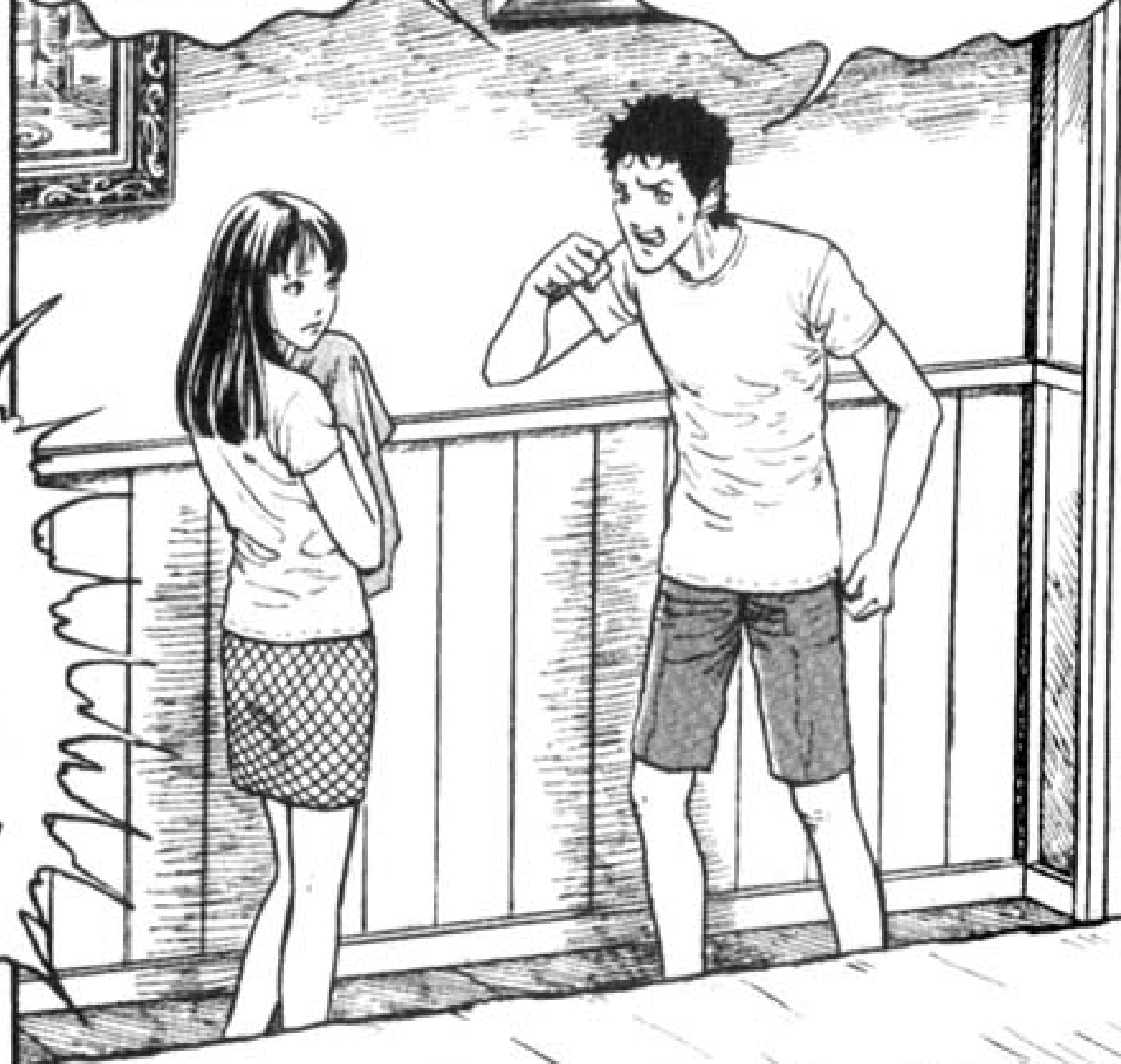
IF WE KISS  
TEN TIMES  
A DAY THEN  
I HAVE TO  
BRUSH TEN  
TIMES?



ARE YOU  
SAYING I HAVE  
TO DO IT  
EVERY TIME  
WE KISS?



GIVE  
ME A  
BREAK!  
I CAN'T  
DEAL WITH  
YOUR  
NEUROSES!!



IF IT  
WASN'T FOR ME,  
YOU WOULDN'T  
BE HERE IN  
OKINAWA. I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU WANT  
ANYMORE.

AND NOW ALL  
YOU DO IS COMPLAIN  
ABOUT THE SMELL,  
OR THAT THE FISH  
STINK...THE FISH  
STINK! WHAT A  
SURPRISE!

WE TOOK  
THIS TRIP  
BECAUSE  
**YOU**  
WANTED TO  
BE OUT AT  
SEA!!

**YOU'RE  
JUST BEING  
SELFISH!**

THIS HOUSE,  
THE BOAT, AND  
EVERYTHING ELSE  
HERE IS YOUR  
UNCLE'S!

BESIDES,  
IT'S NOT  
LIKE YOU  
OWN THIS  
PLACE.

WHAT  
THE HELL'S  
**YOUR**  
PROBLEM  
?

DO YOU  
HAVE TO  
THROW A  
FIT EVERY  
TIME I ASK  
FOR SOME-  
THING?

OH,  
YOU'LL  
GET YOUR  
**MONEY**  
BACK!

I  
PAID  
FOR  
THE  
PLANE  
FLIGHT  
!





I'M GOING  
BACK TO  
TOKYO! I'M  
LEAVING  
TONIGHT!

FINE!  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
SUCH AN  
ASSHOLE!

WILL YOU  
LISTEN TO  
YOURSELF  
?

IF YOU  
DON'T WANT  
TO BE HERE,  
WHY DON'T  
YOU JUST  
LEAVE?



SLAM



THEN  
DO IT!



IT'S  
GETTING  
DARK.  
YOU'RE NOT  
REALLY GOING  
TO FLY  
BACK TO  
TOKYO!

THERE'S  
SNAKES  
OUT  
THERE!!



HEY,  
KAORI!  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
THINGS?!



**AIEEEE!**

AH?

WOW...  
IT  
REALLY  
REEKS...

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
KAORI?

THERE  
YOU  
ARE.

I WAS  
LOOKING  
ALL OVER  
TOWN FOR  
YOU.

**SHFFFFF**

WHAT?  
IS IT A  
SNAKE?

TADASHI...THERE'S  
SOMETHING IN  
THE GRASS...





WHAT  
IS THIS  
SMELL  
!?

GET  
ME OUT  
OF  
HERE!



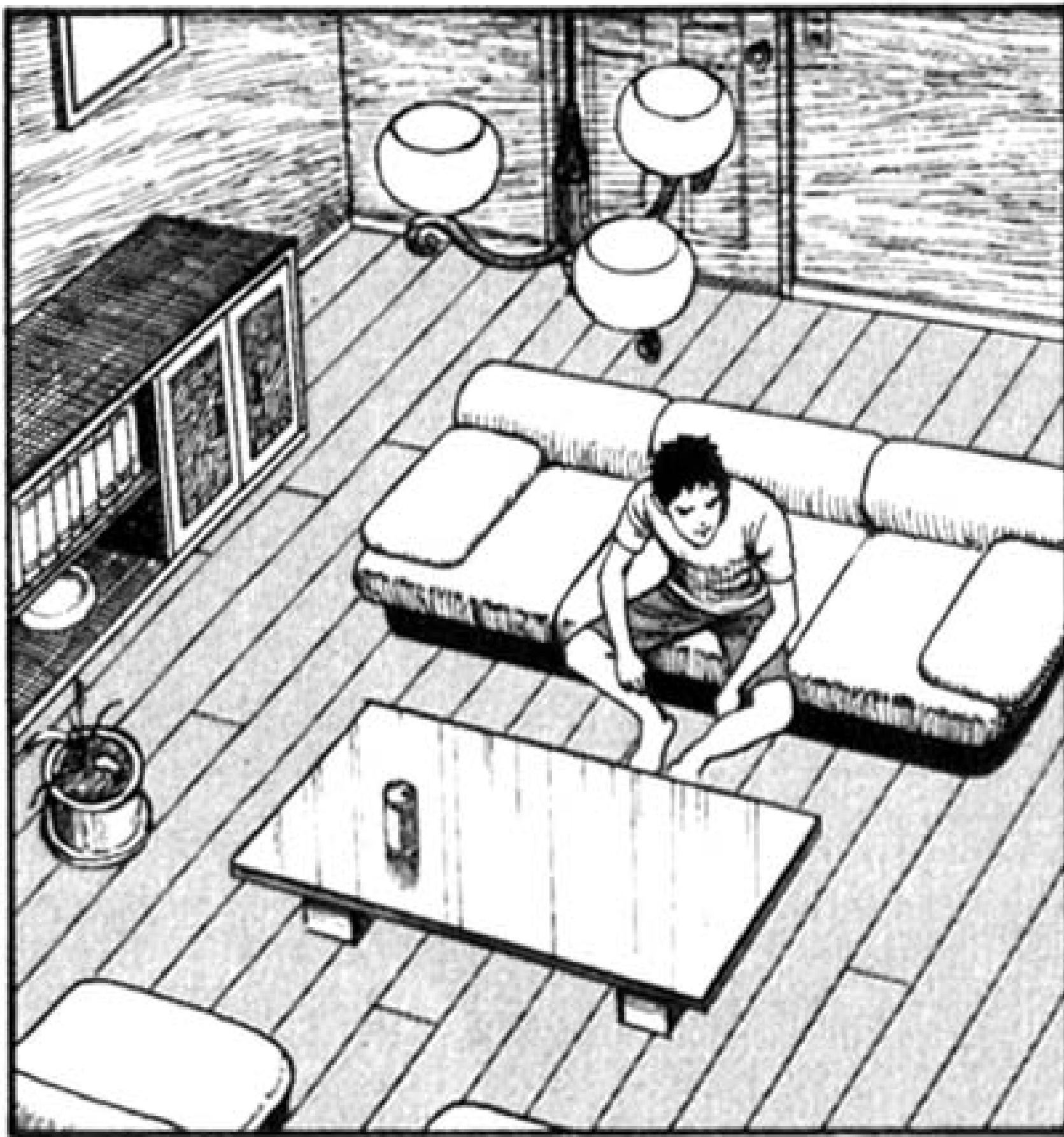
IT'S NOT  
A SNAKE...  
A CAT  
MAYBE?

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT!?



COME ON...  
LET'S GO  
BACK TO  
THE ROOM...

NO KIDDING.  
IT'S SOMETHING  
PUTRID...  
ROTTEN  
GARBAGE...



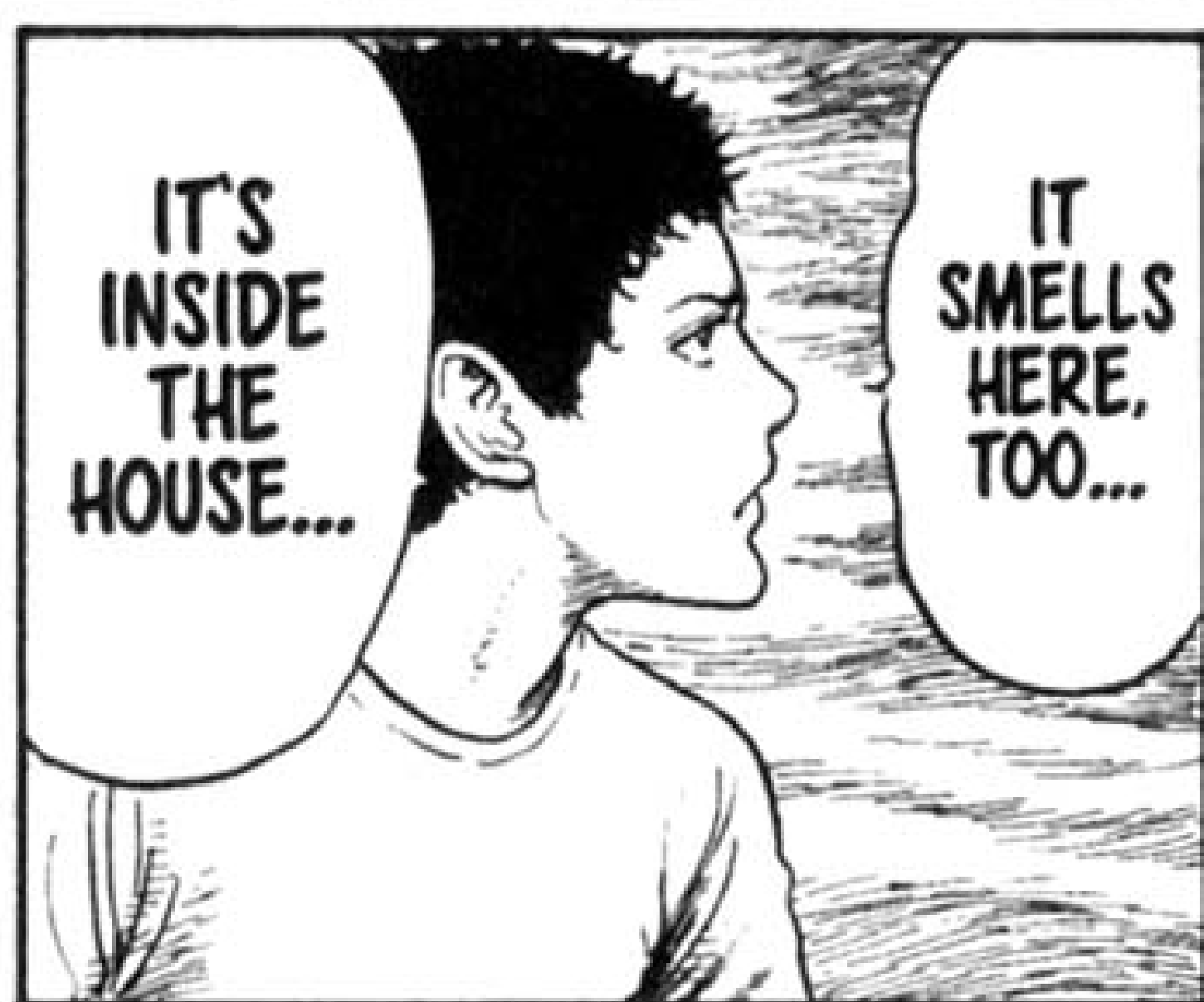


IN FACT...  
IT'S NOT  
JUST  
STICKING  
TO US...

I  
KNOW.



TADASHI!  
DO  
SOMETHING!!



IT'S  
INSIDE  
THE  
HOUSE...

IT  
SMELLS  
HERE,  
TOO...



...GIVE  
ME A  
BREAK.

...WHILE  
YOU GO AND  
BUY AIR  
FRESHENER!  
ALL RIGHT?

OKAY?  
I'M GOING  
TO TAKE  
ANOTHER  
SHOWER...

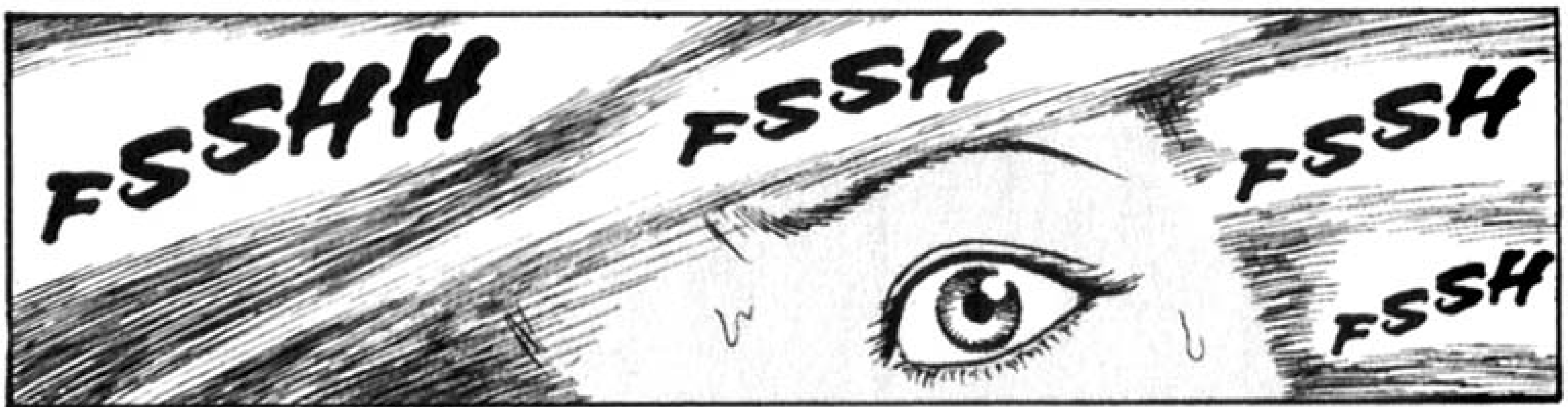
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
I CAN DO  
ABOUT THIS  
SMELL...

GO BUY  
SOME DIS-  
INFECTANT!  
SOME AIR  
FRESHENER!  
ANYTHING!

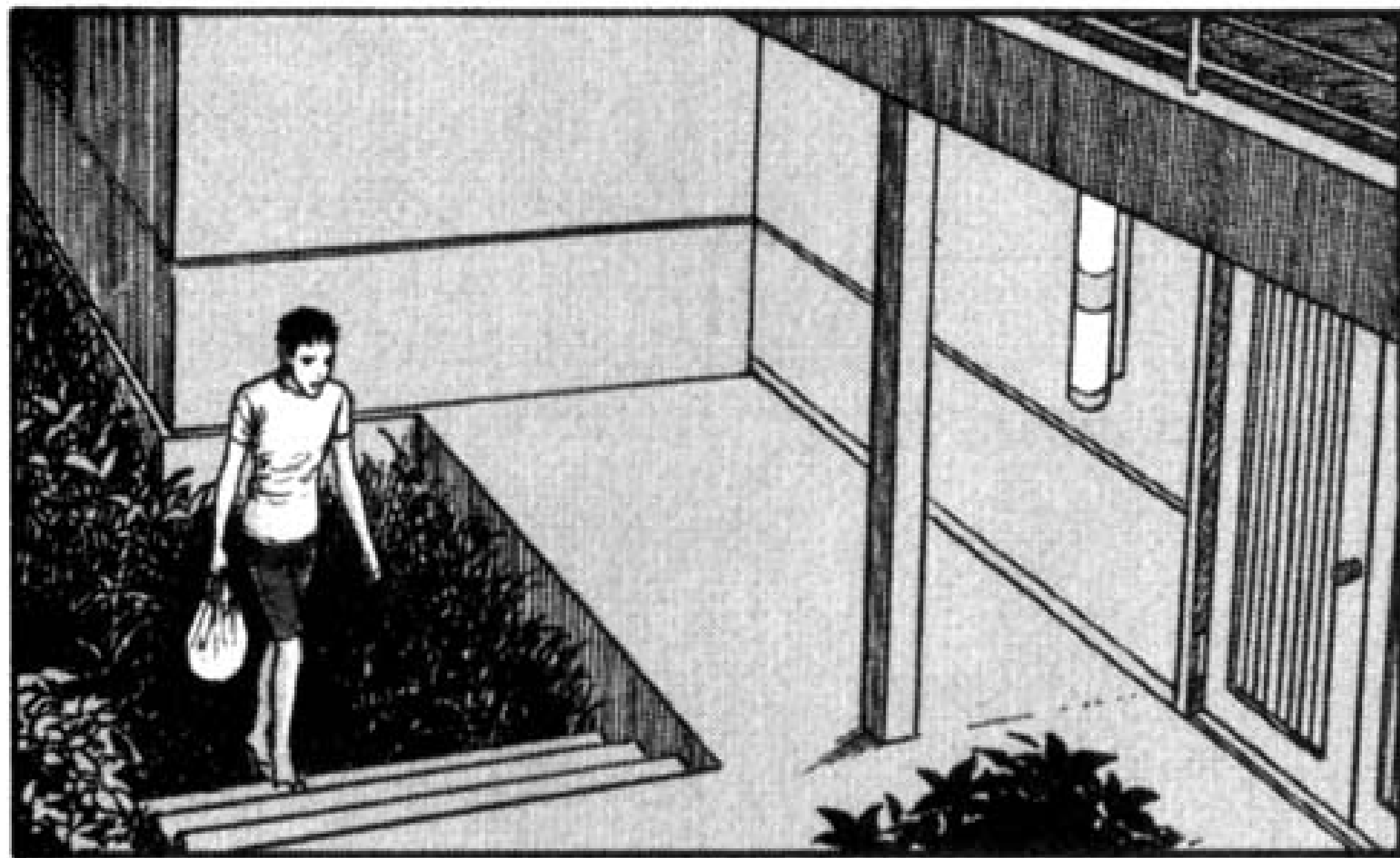
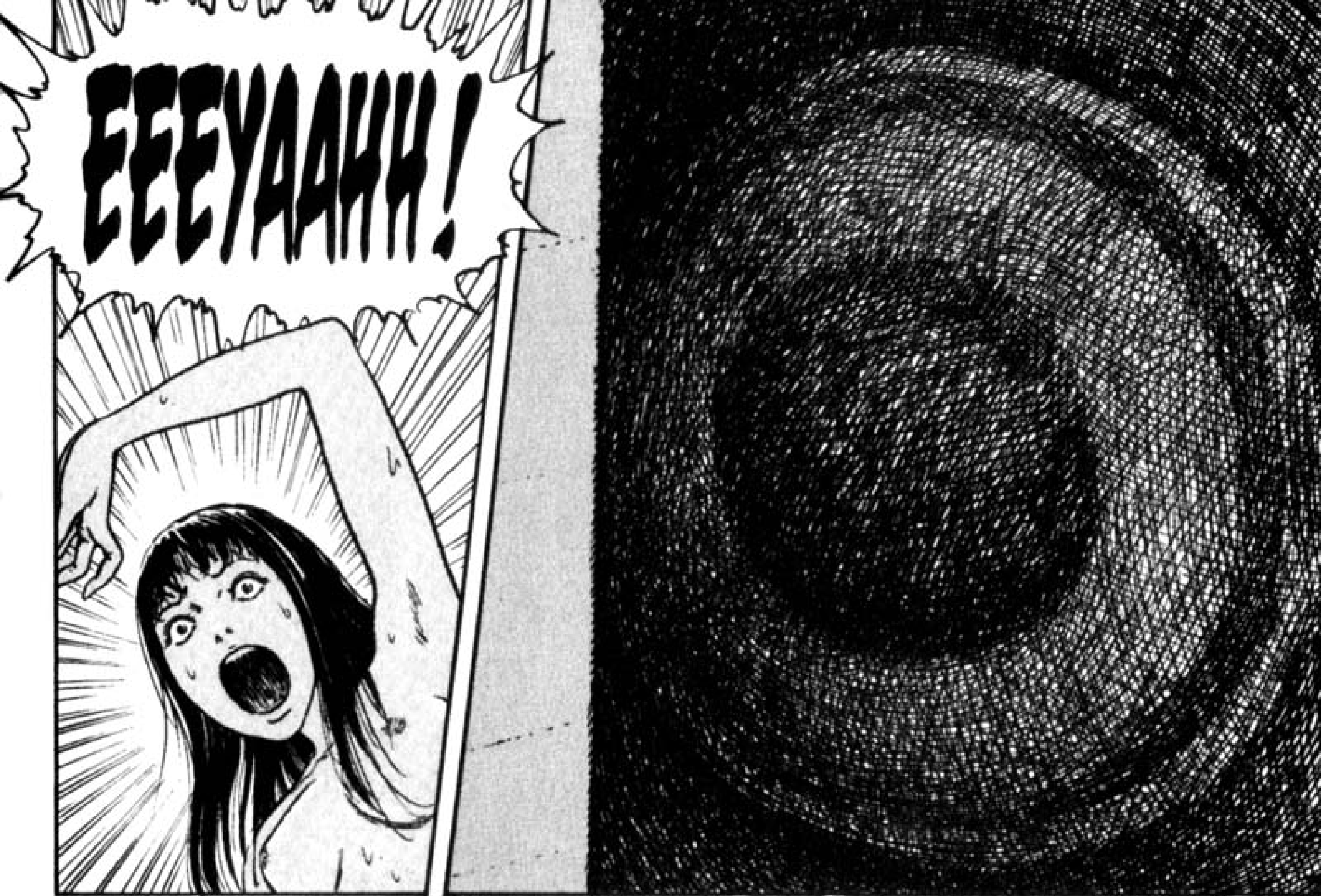




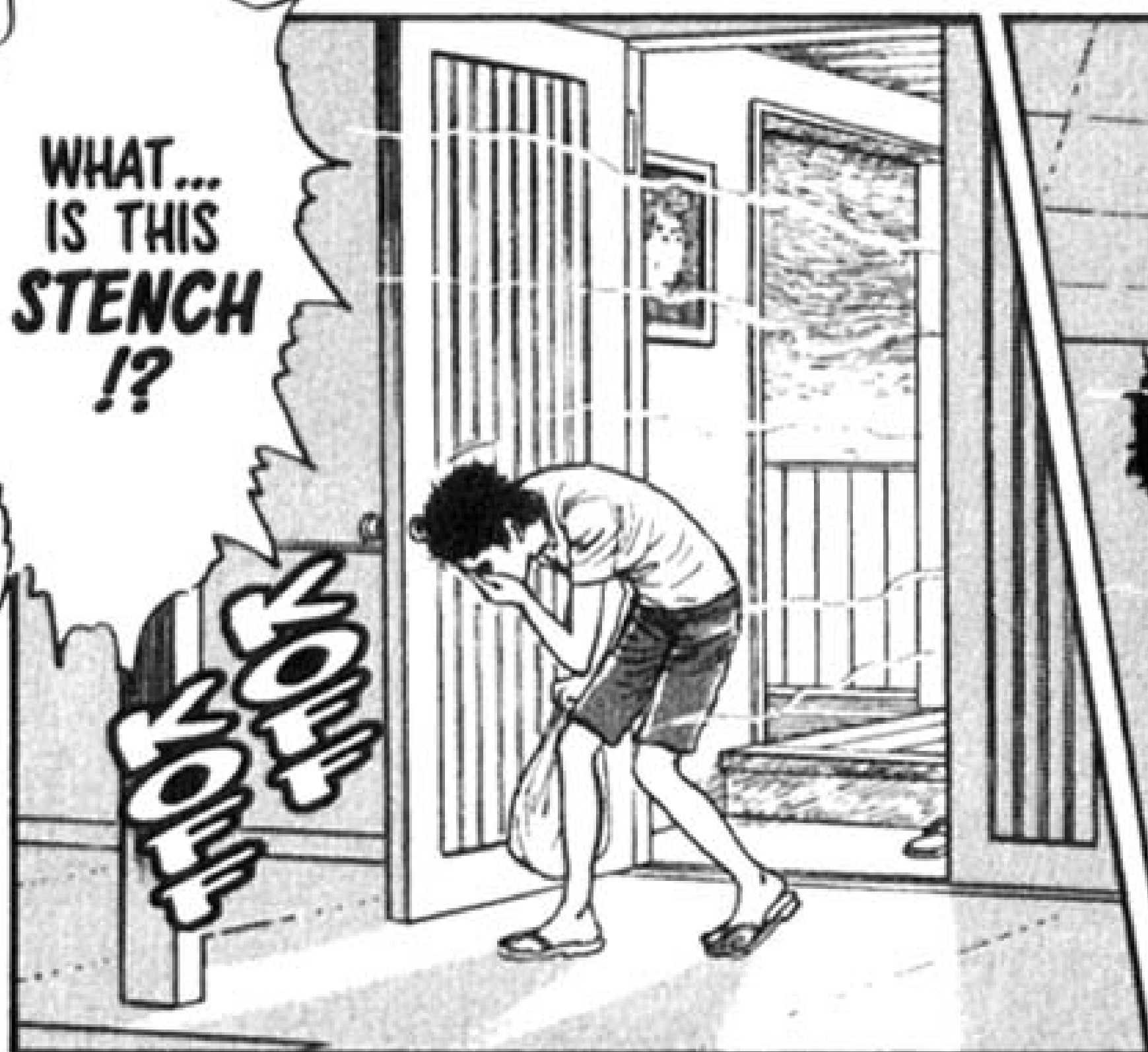








WHAT...  
IS THIS  
STENCH  
!?



KAORI!  
WHERE  
ARE  
YOU!?



HEY...  
KAORI?

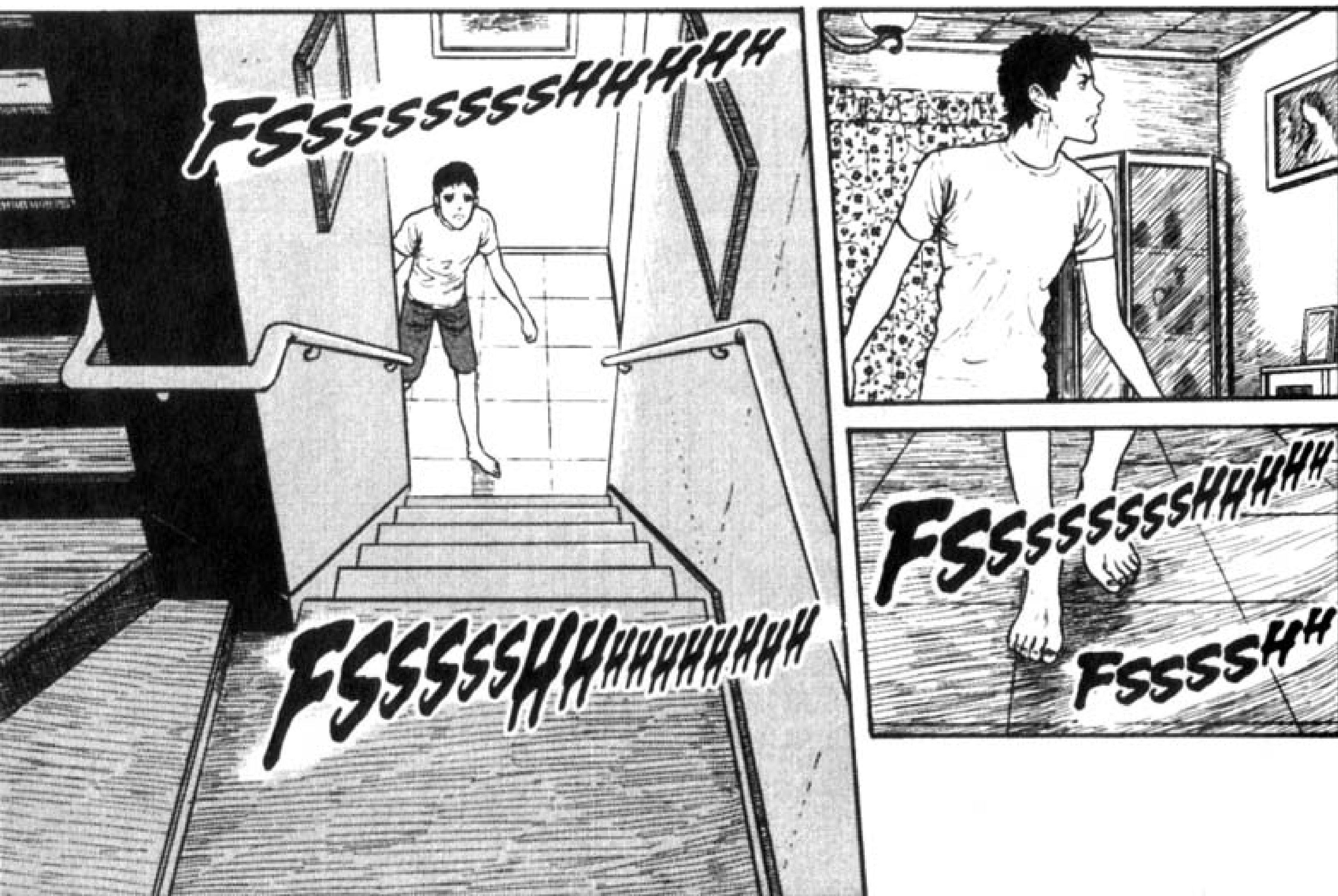


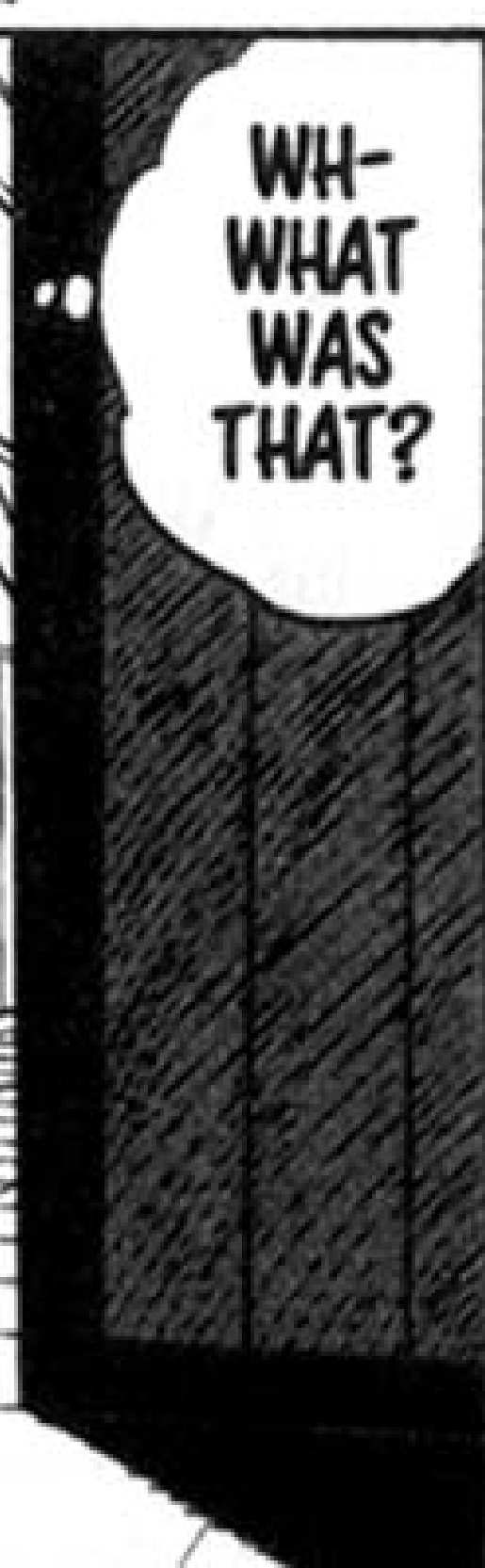
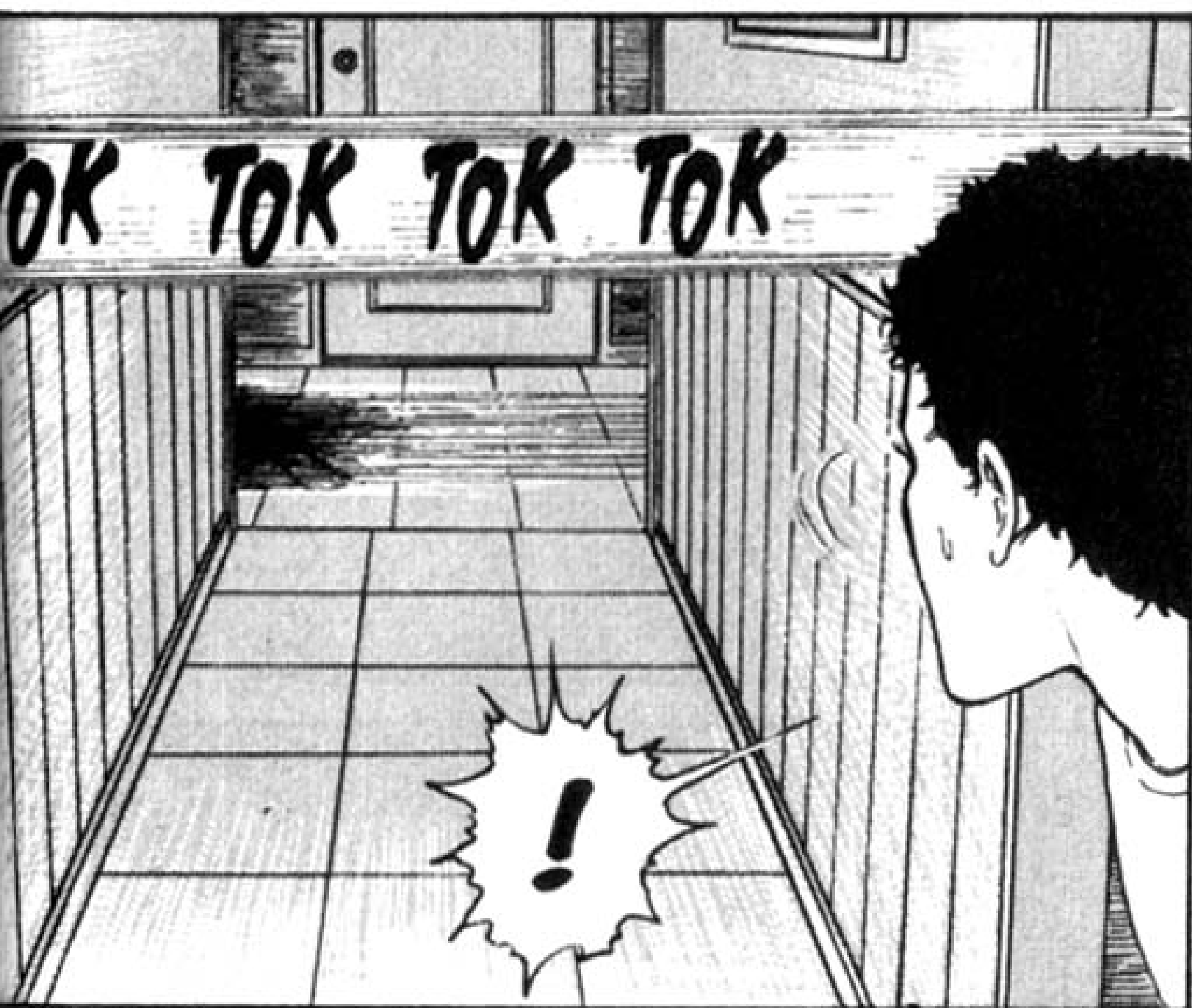
I'M  
GETTING  
DIZZY...

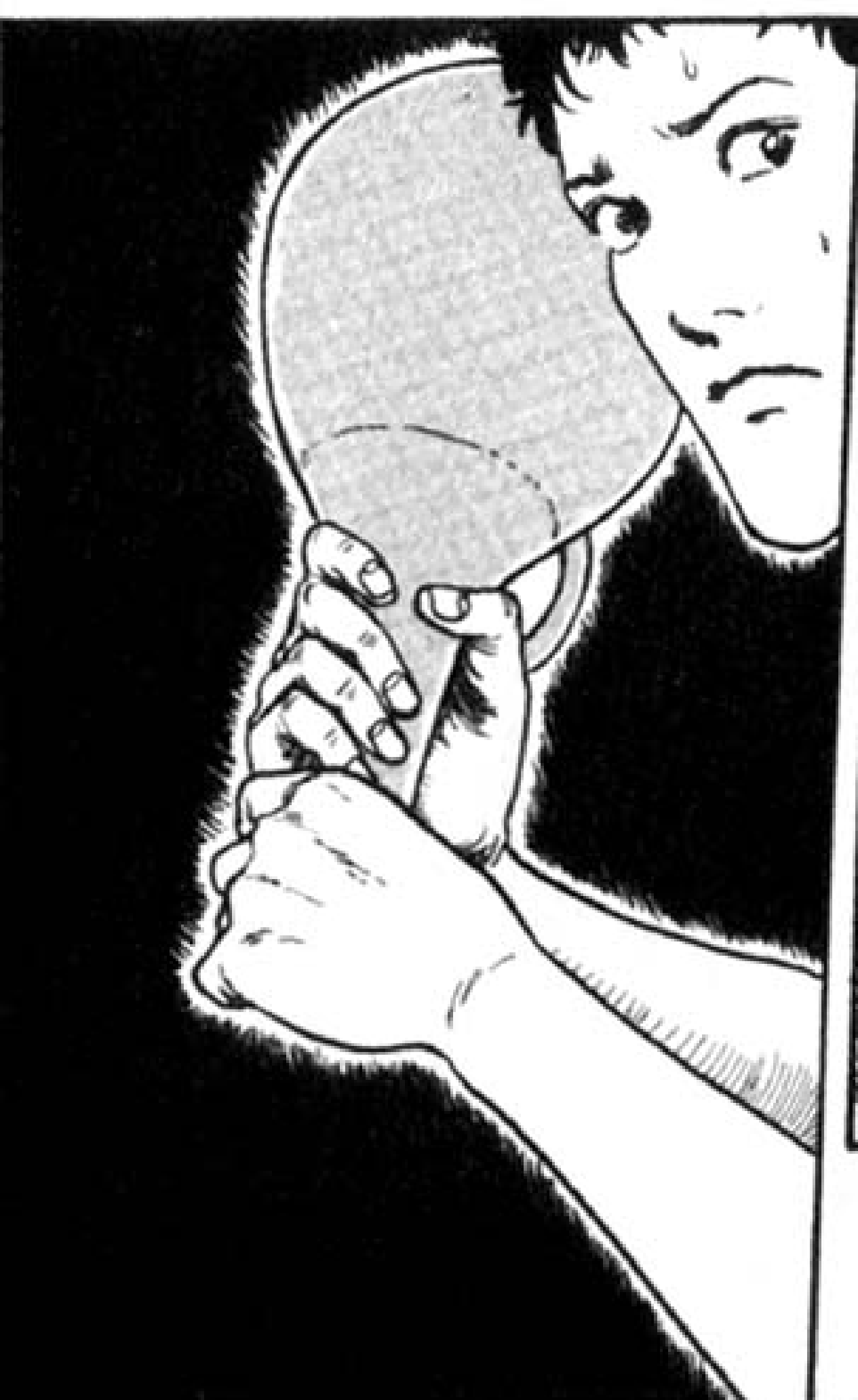




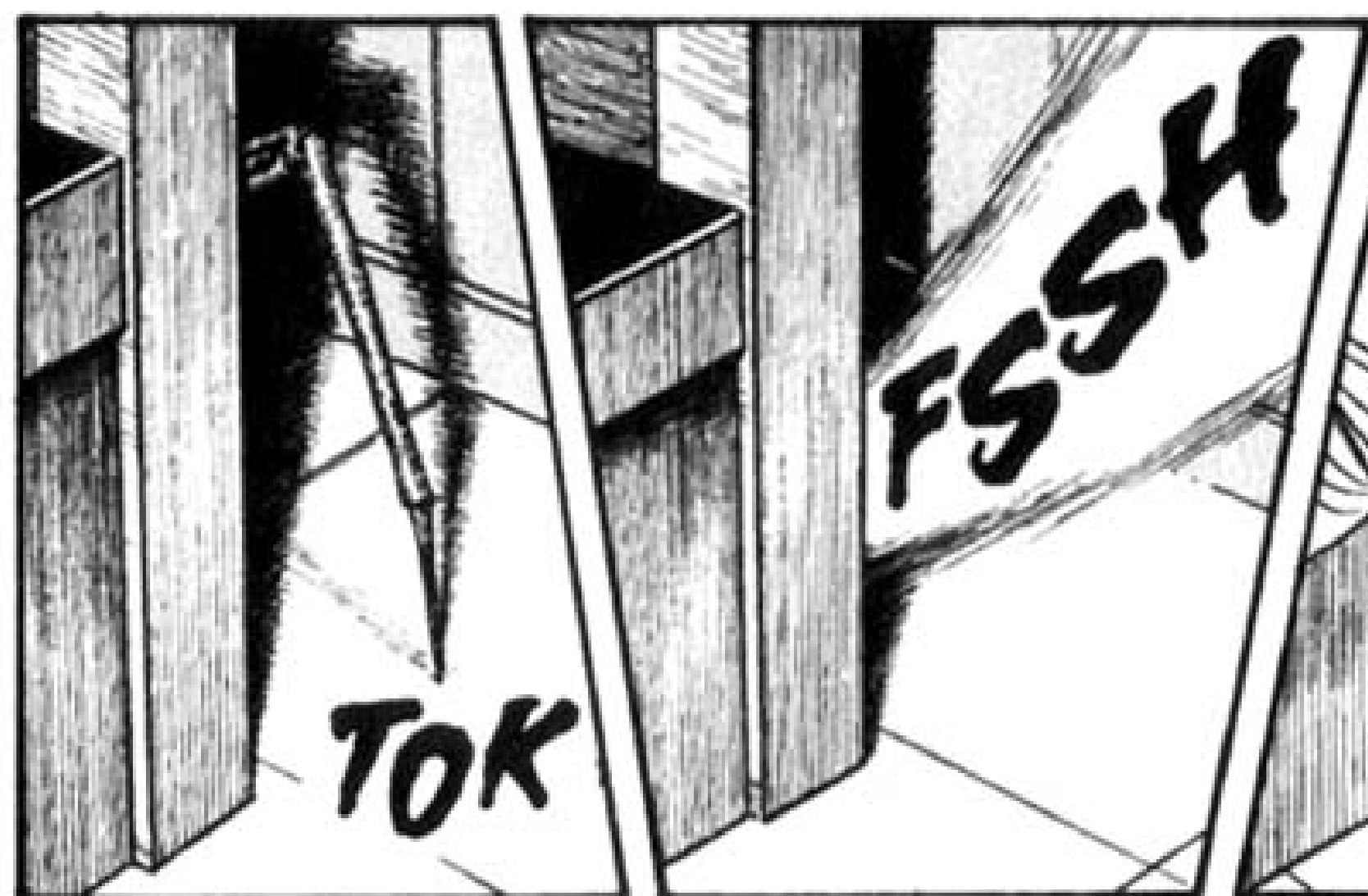


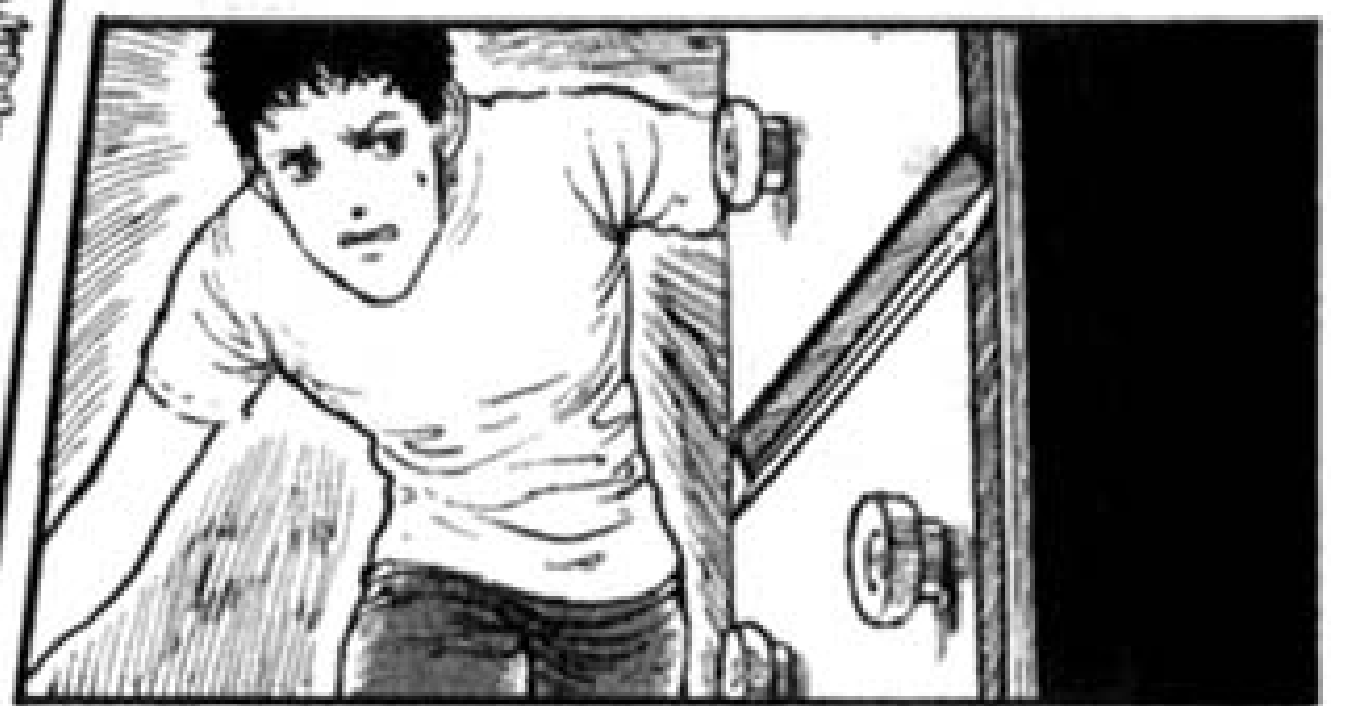










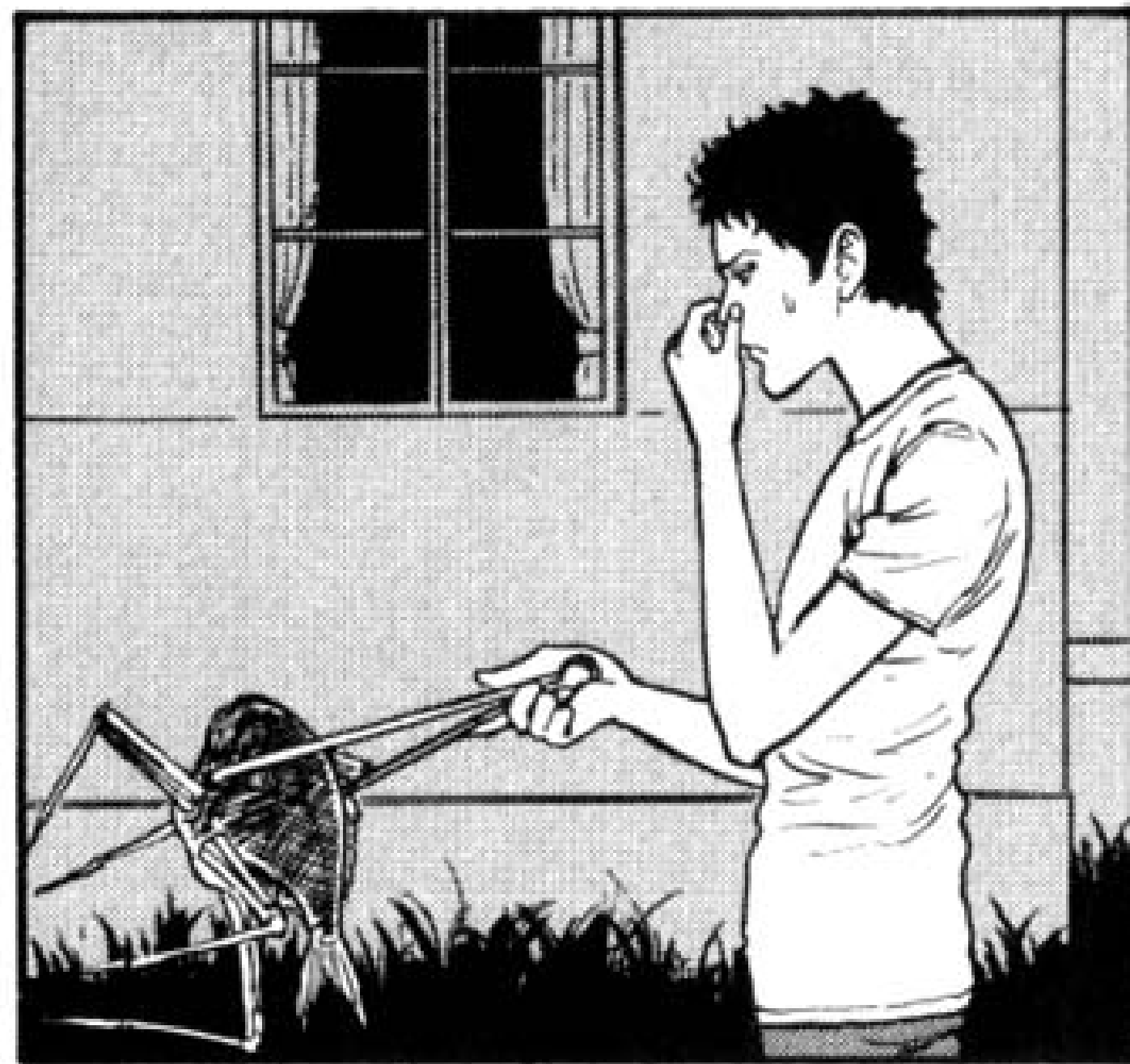
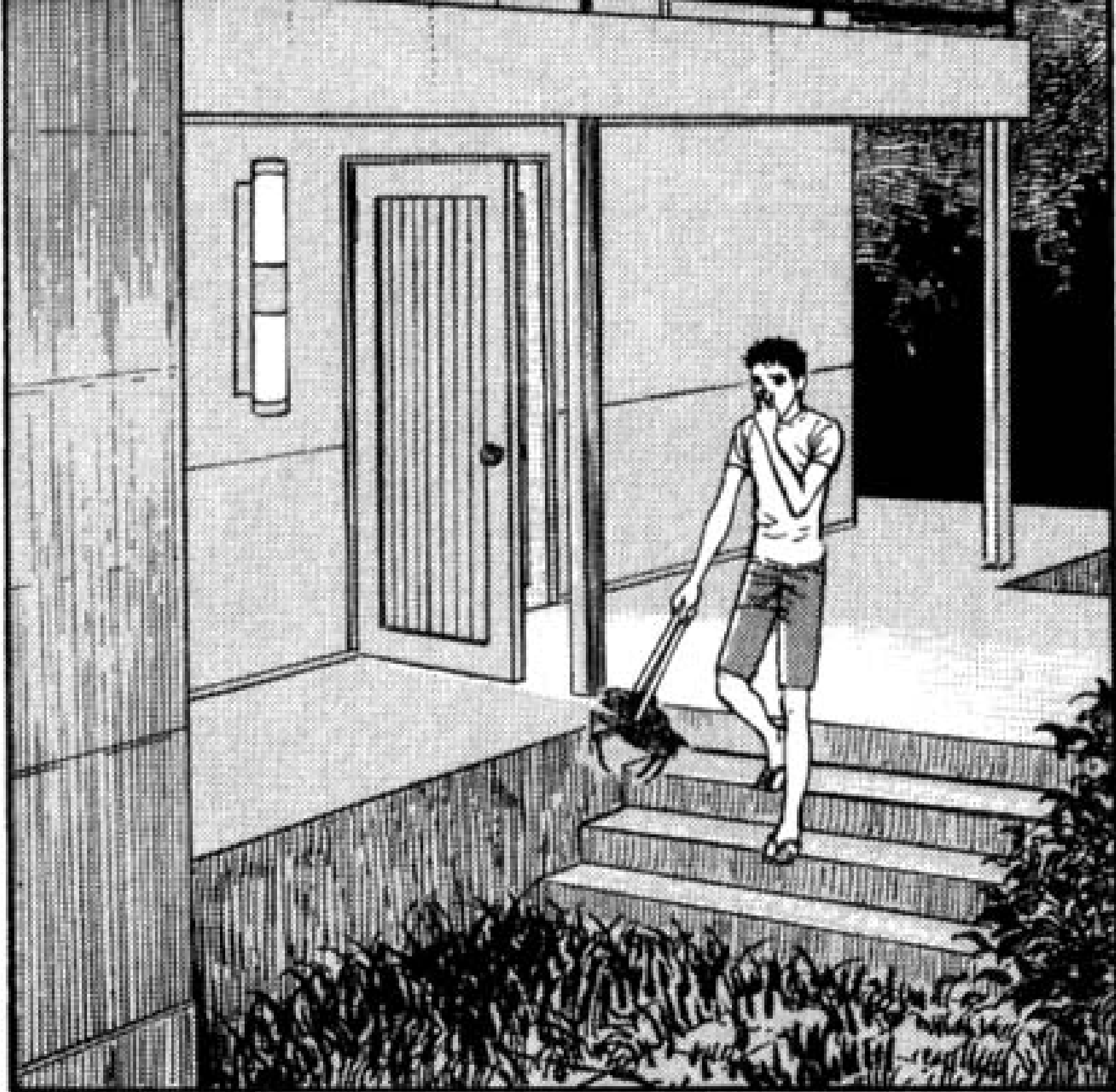






2 / *The Death-  
Stench in the Air*











YEAH,  
DON'T  
WORRY.



REALLY!?  
SO IT'S  
GONE?

IT'S  
ALL  
RIGHT,  
I TOOK  
CARE  
OF IT.



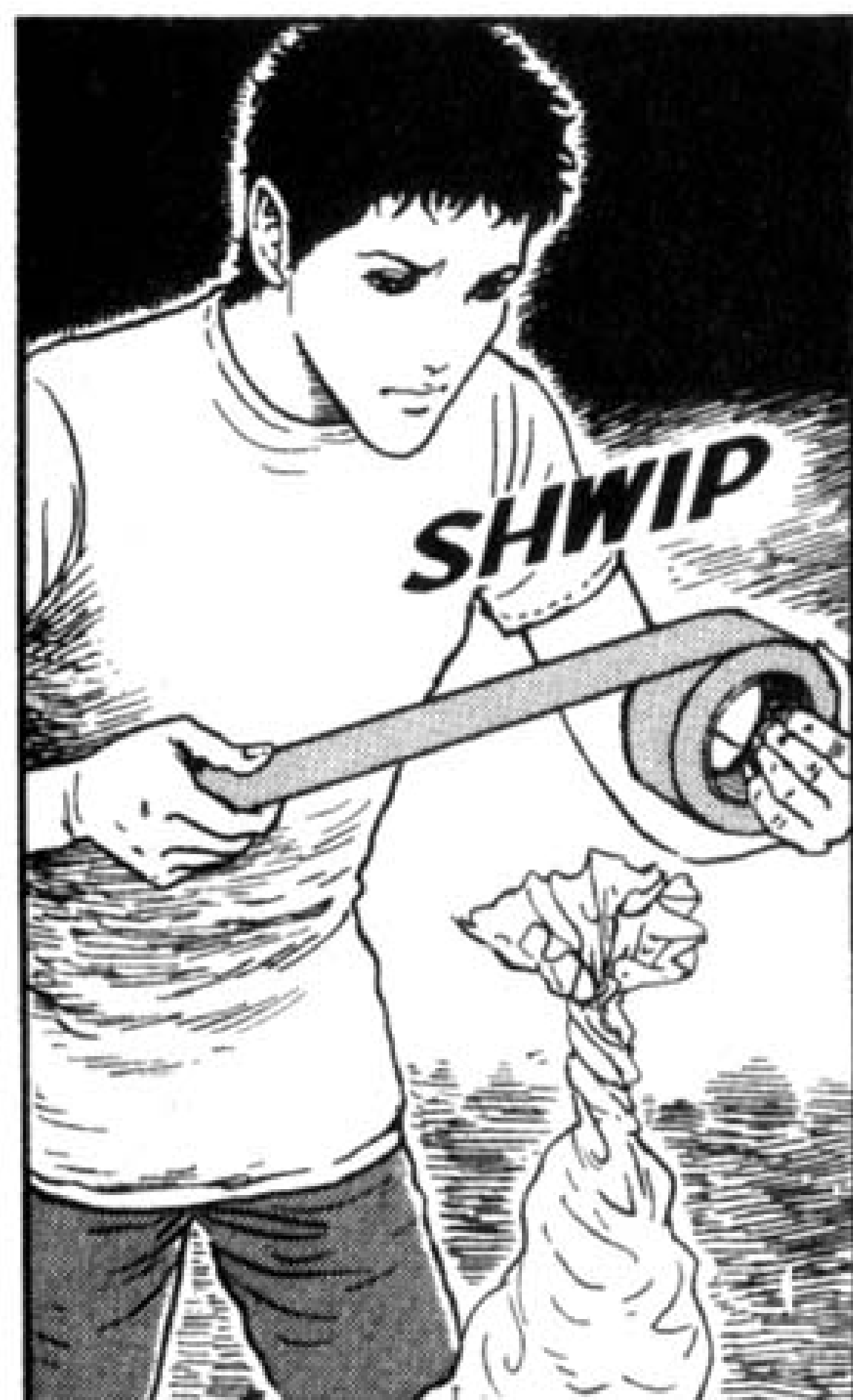
TADASHI...  
A  
MONSTER!  
IT WAS A  
MONSTER  
!

KAORI!  
YOU'RE  
ALL  
RIGHT!



THE  
SMELL...  
GET RID  
OF THIS  
SMELL.

I WILL.  
JUST  
HOLD ON,  
AND I'LL  
GET RID  
OF WHAT'S  
CAUSING  
IT.



SHWIP



THUP



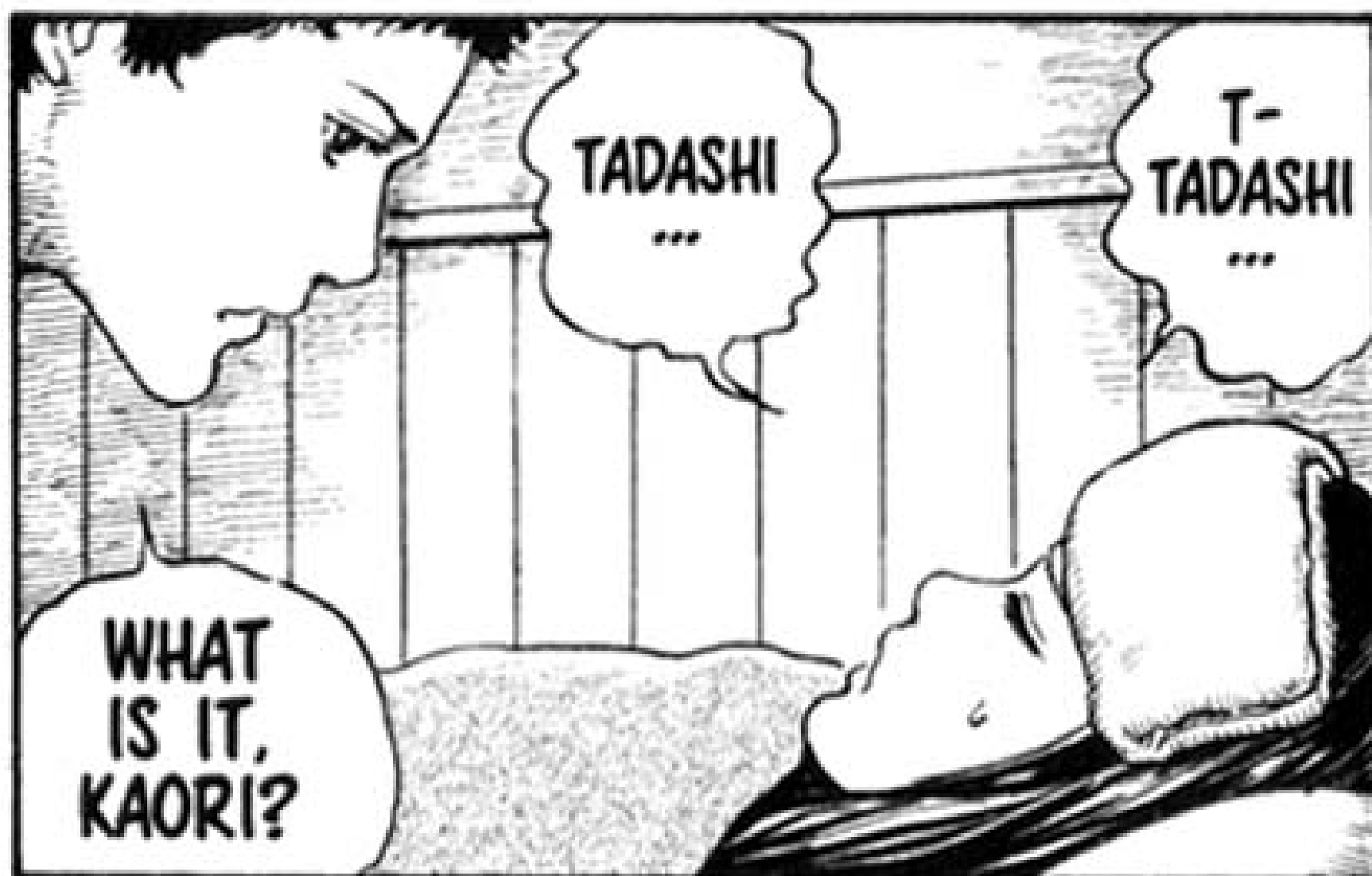
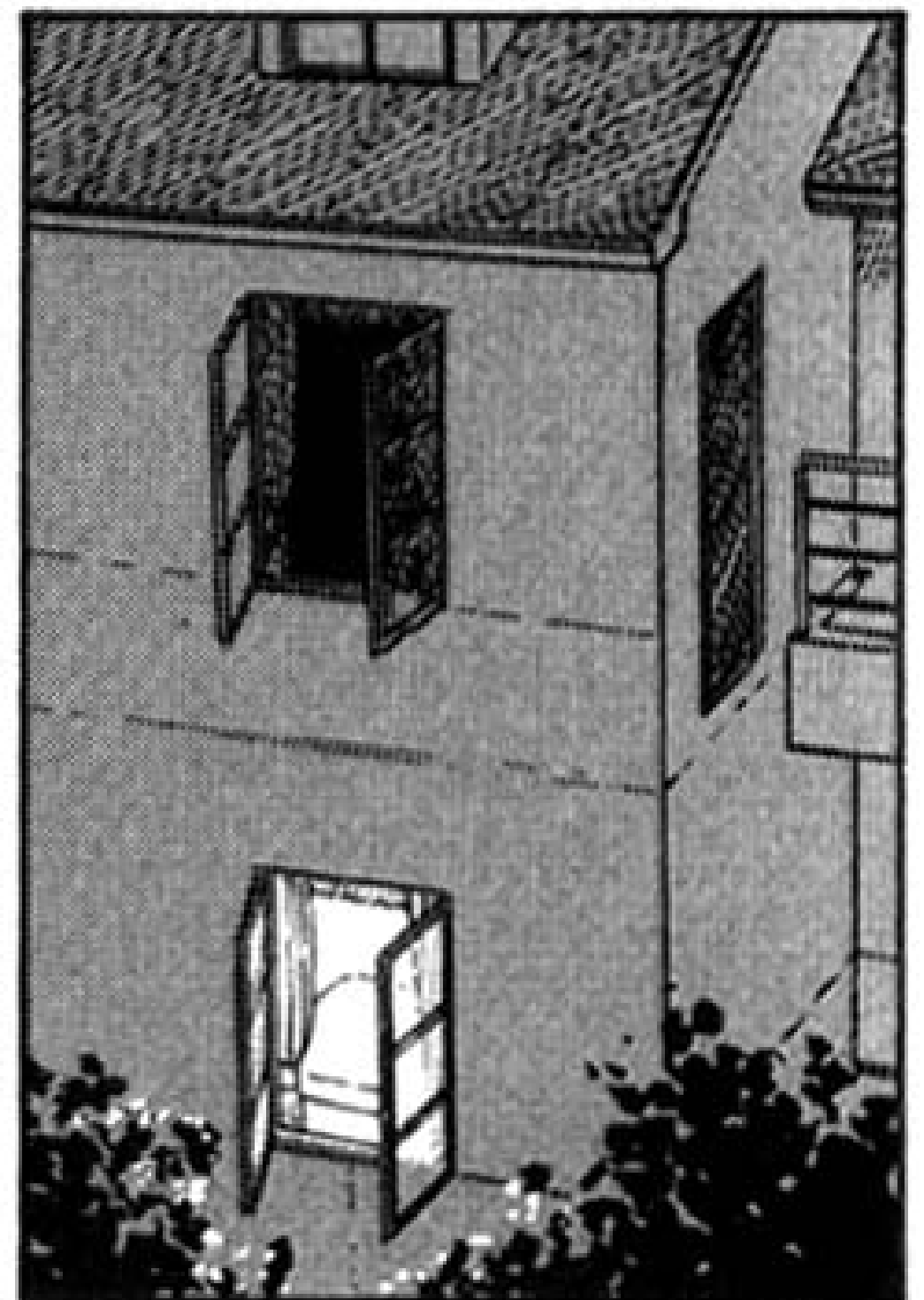
TWIK

TWIK











WE  
MIGHT HAVE  
DISCOVERED A  
NEW SPECIES, LIKE  
THE LOCH NESS  
MONSTER, OR THE  
TSUCHI-NO-KO.  
THIS COULD BE  
A BIG DEAL.

I DON'T  
THINK SO...  
BESIDES, I  
CAN'T JUST  
TOSS IT  
OUT.



GET  
RID OF  
IT...  
**NOW!!**

DON'T  
BE STUPID!!  
YOU HAVE  
TO GET RID  
OF THAT  
THING!!



WHAT...?  
IT'S  
GONE!!



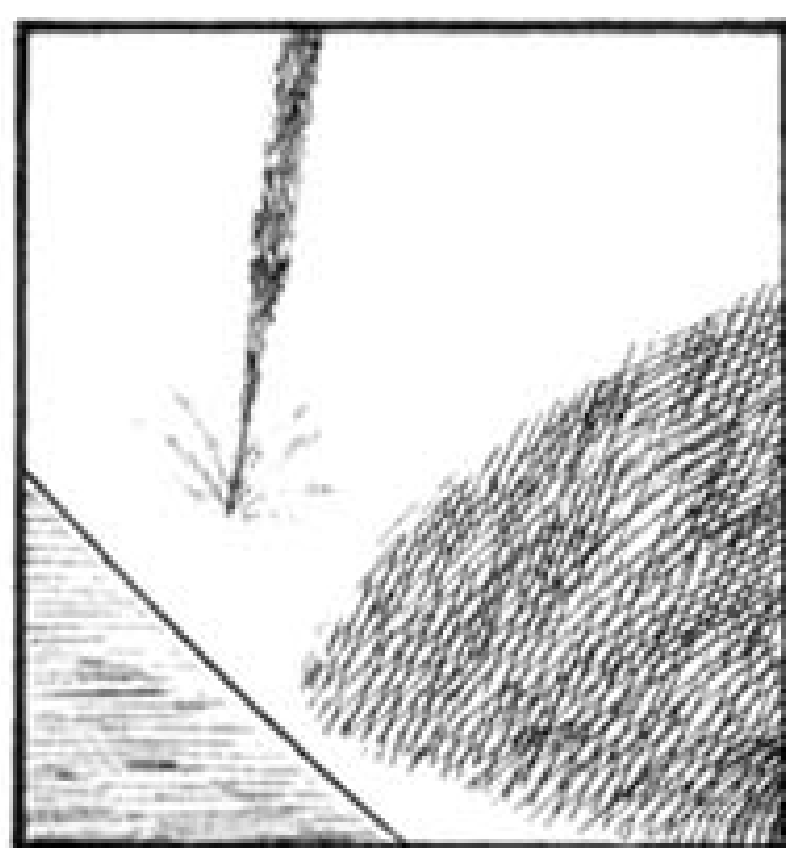
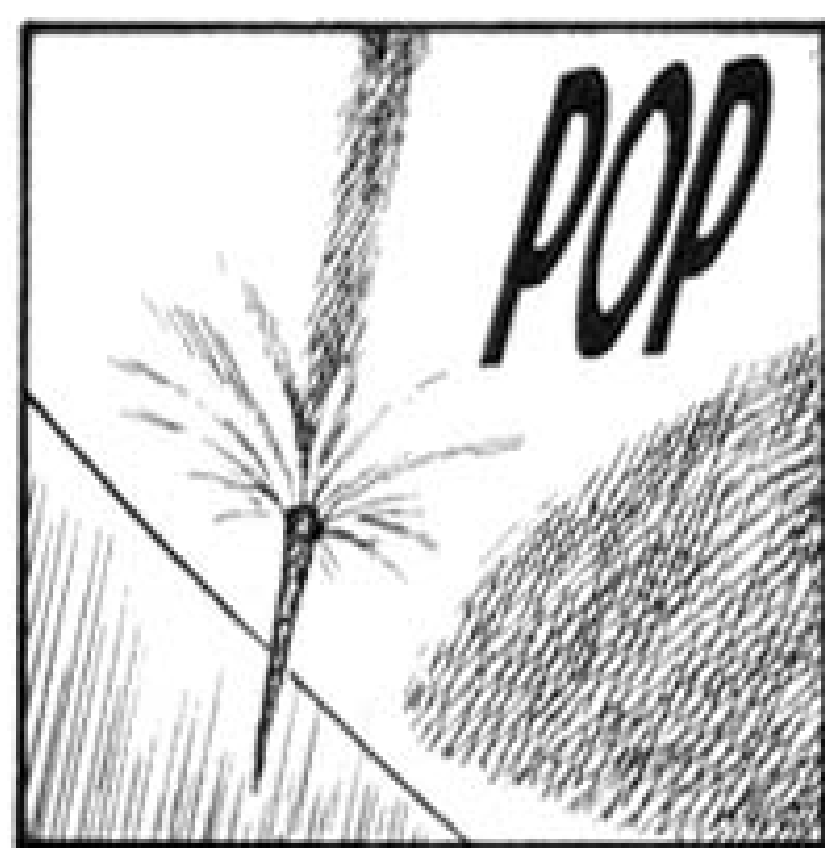
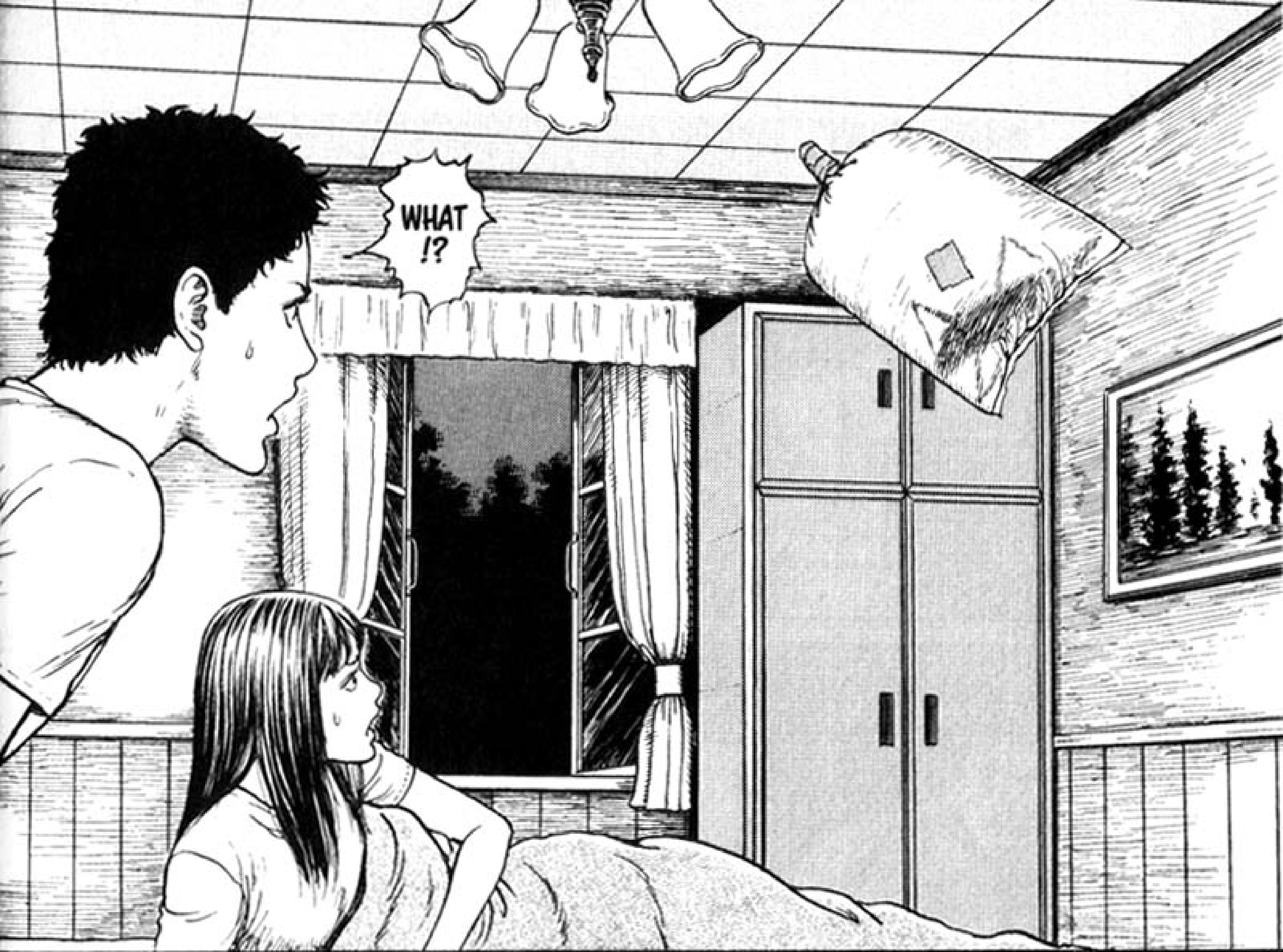
I'LL  
MOVE IT  
FARTHER  
AWAY...



HUH  
!?







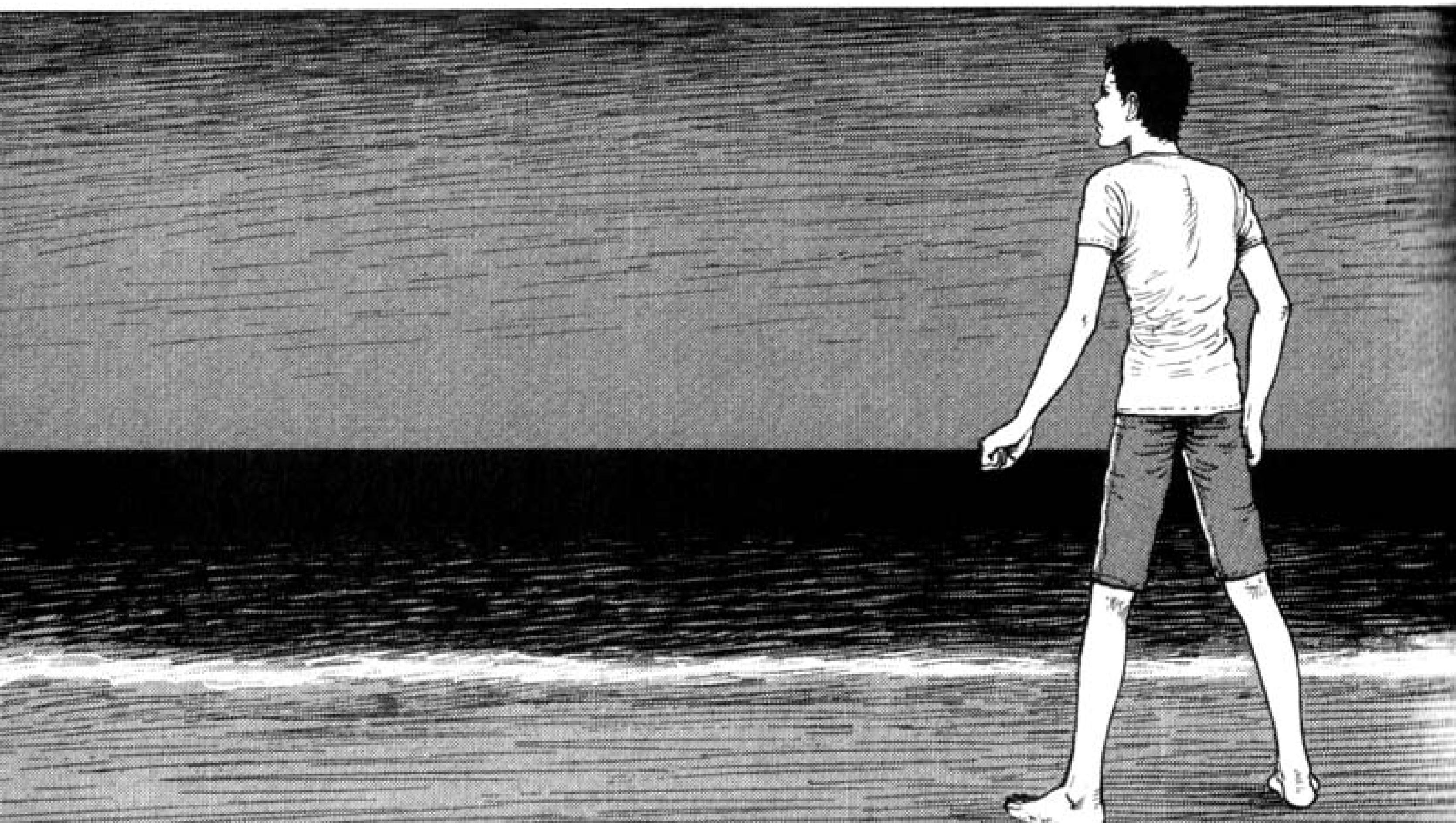




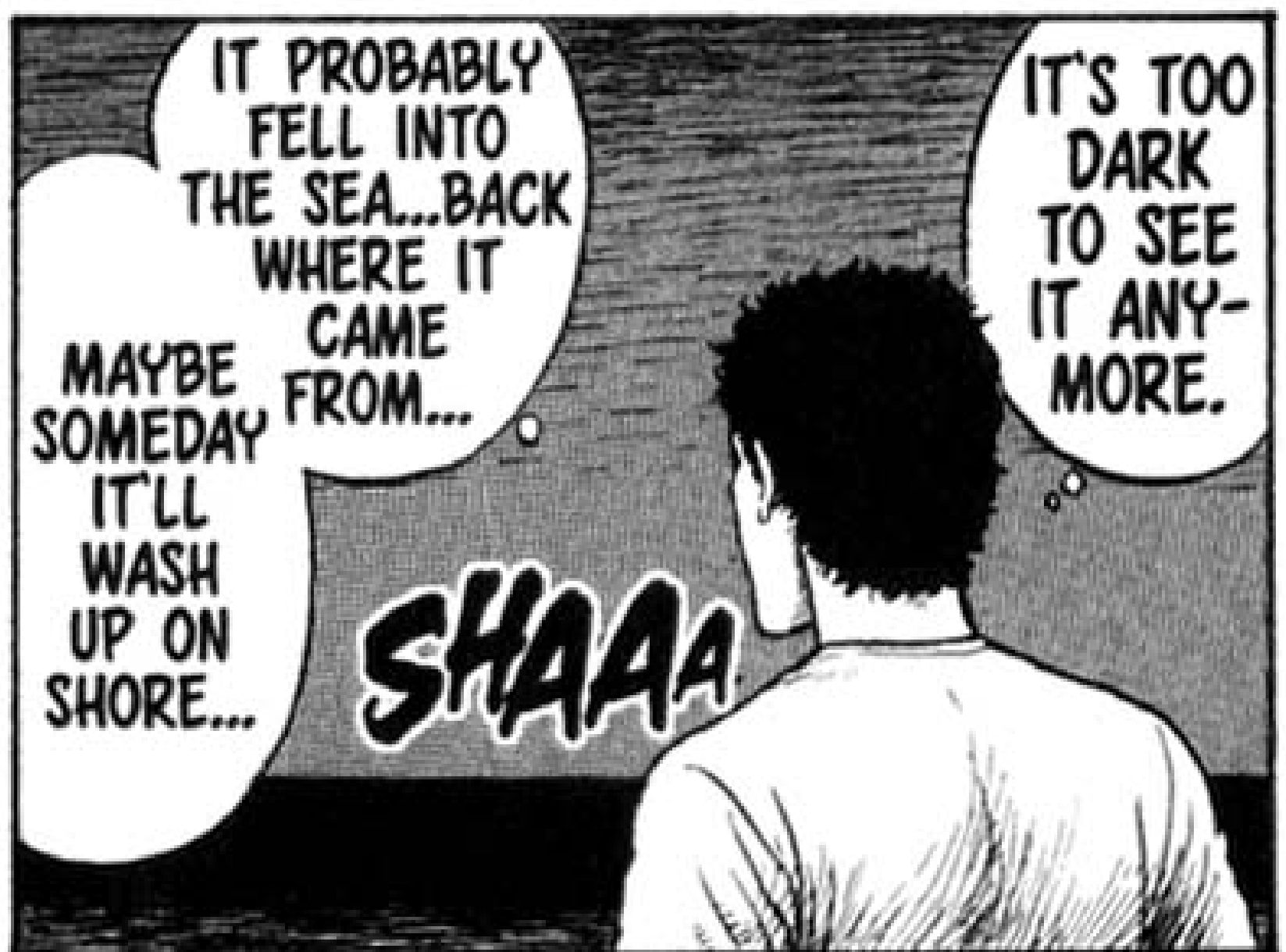


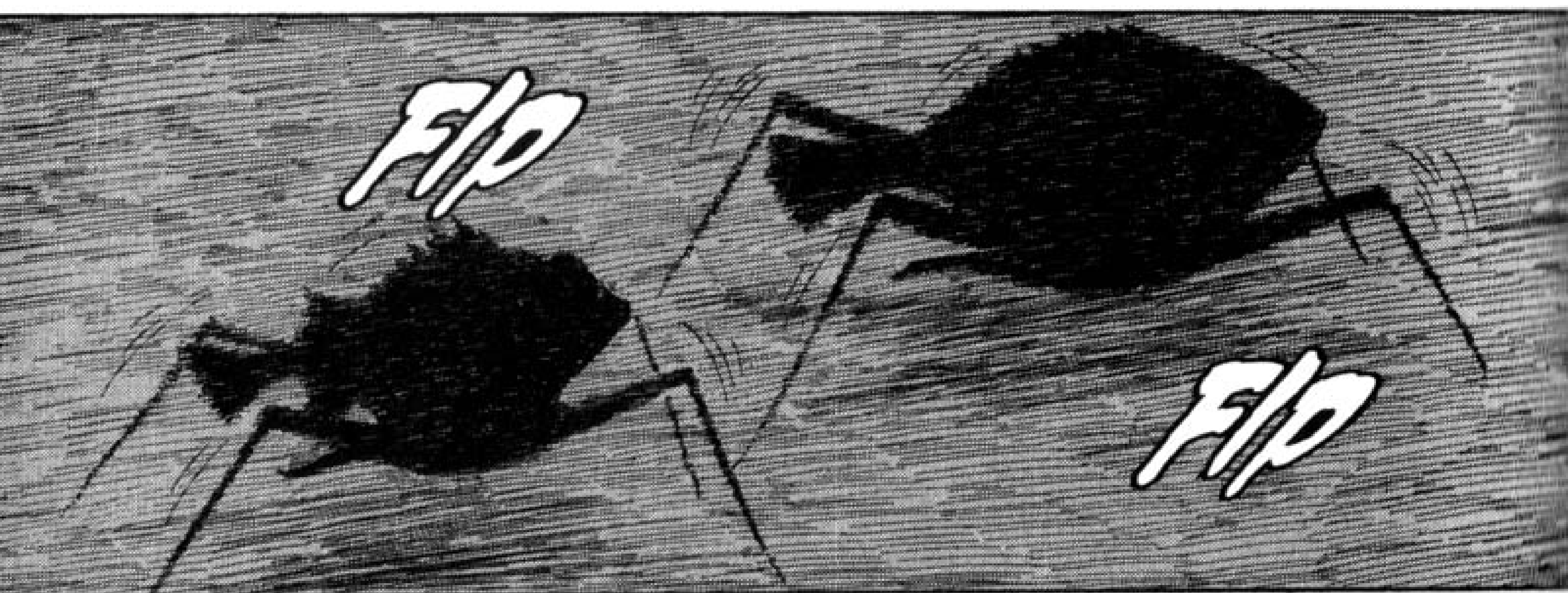


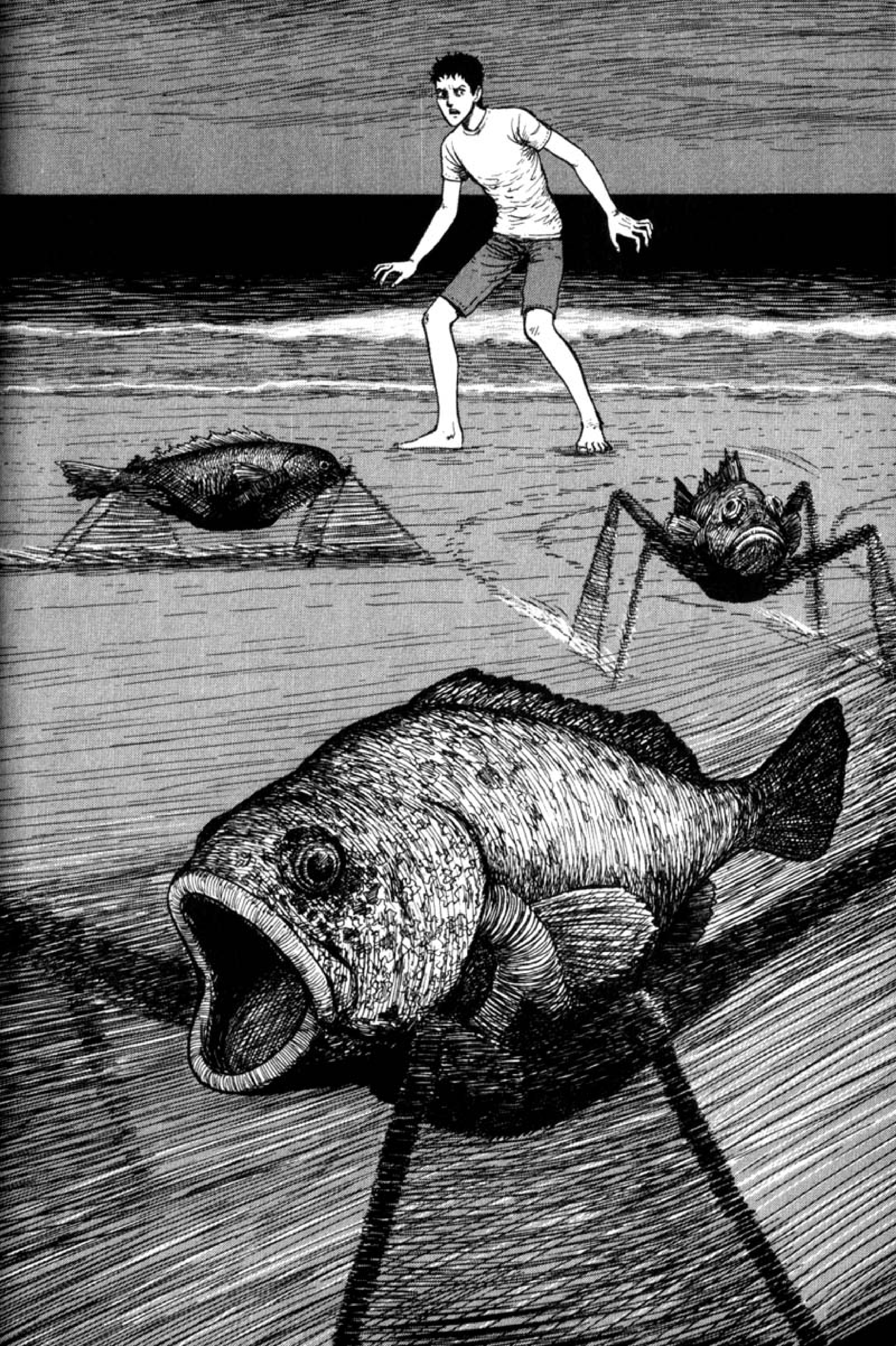










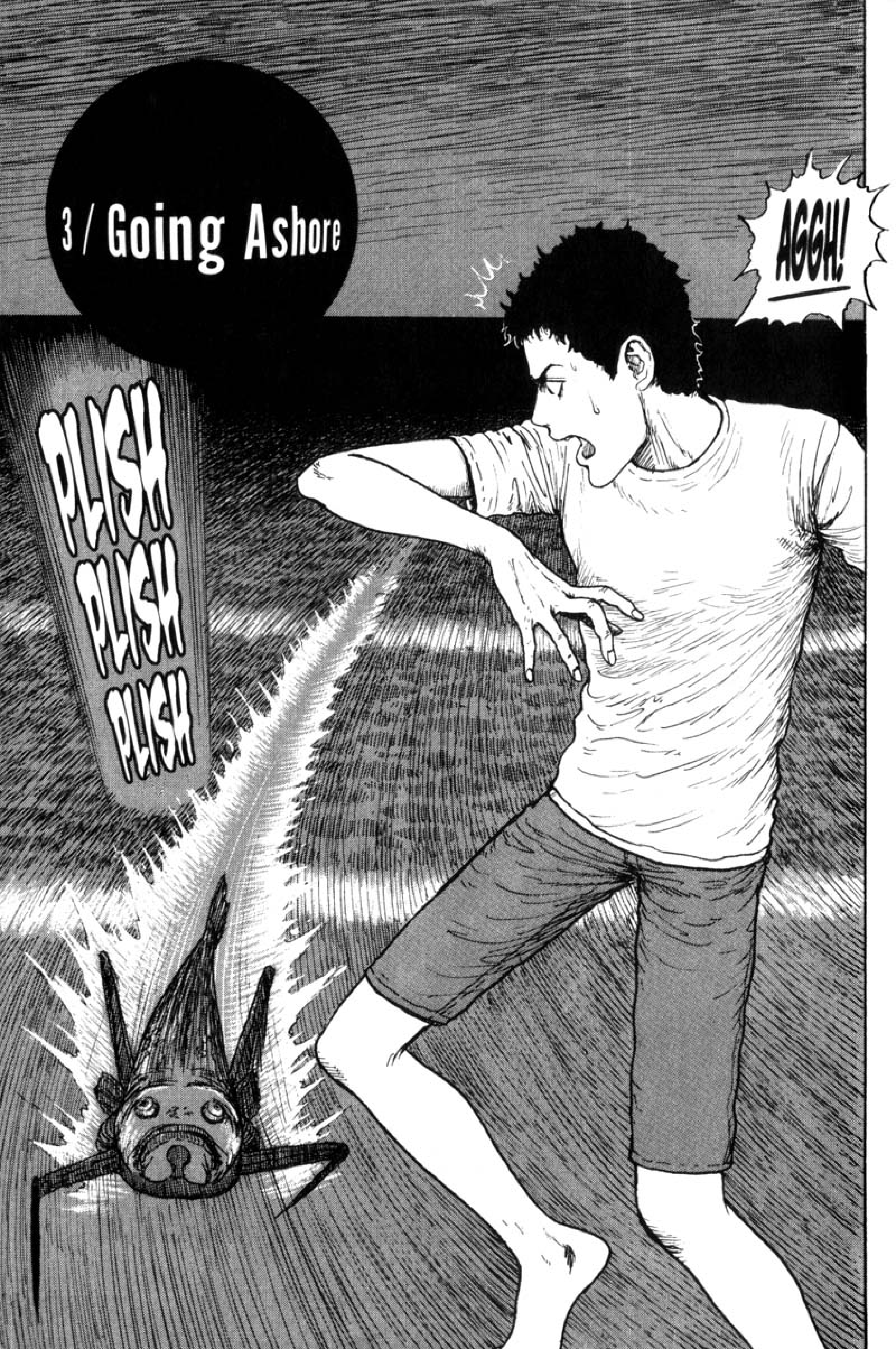


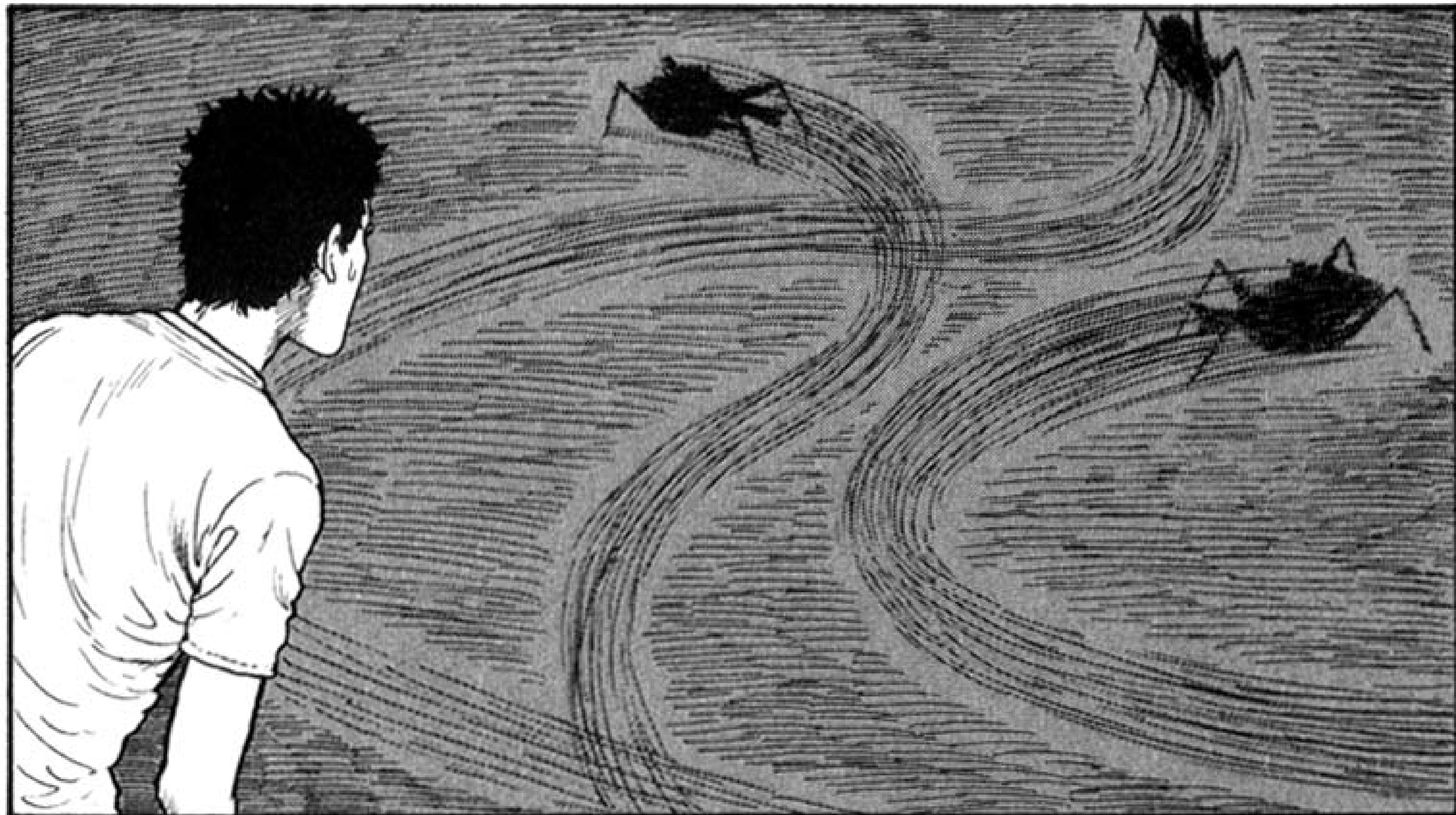


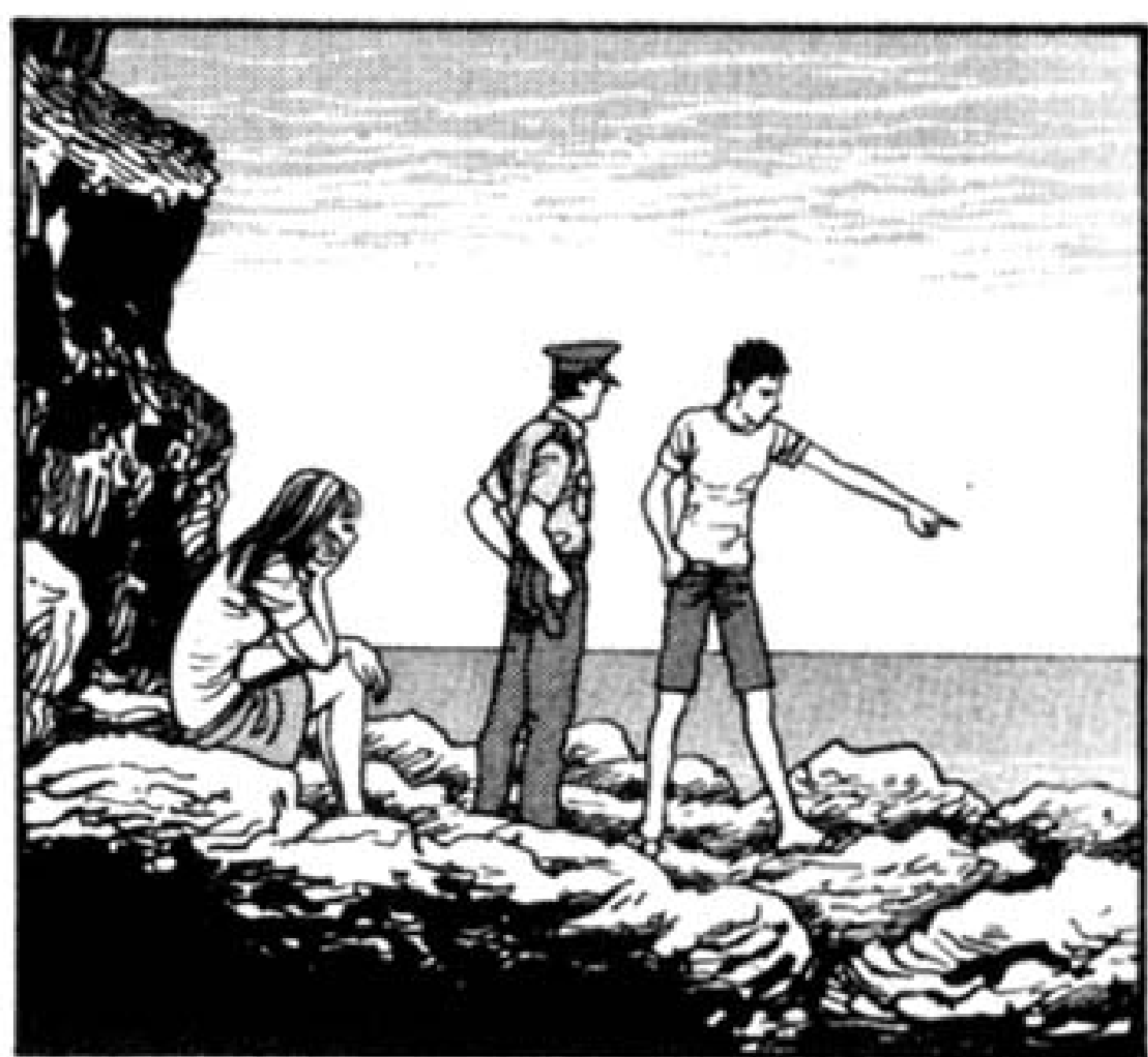
3 / Going Ashore

AGGH!

PUSH  
PUSH  
PUSH

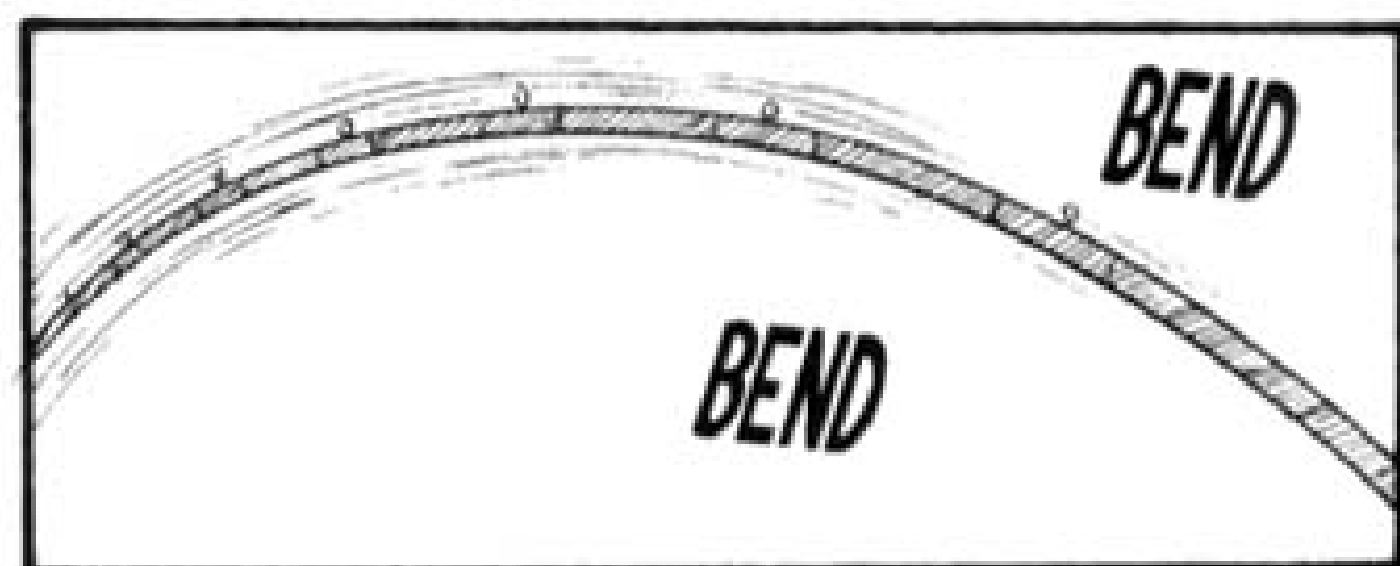
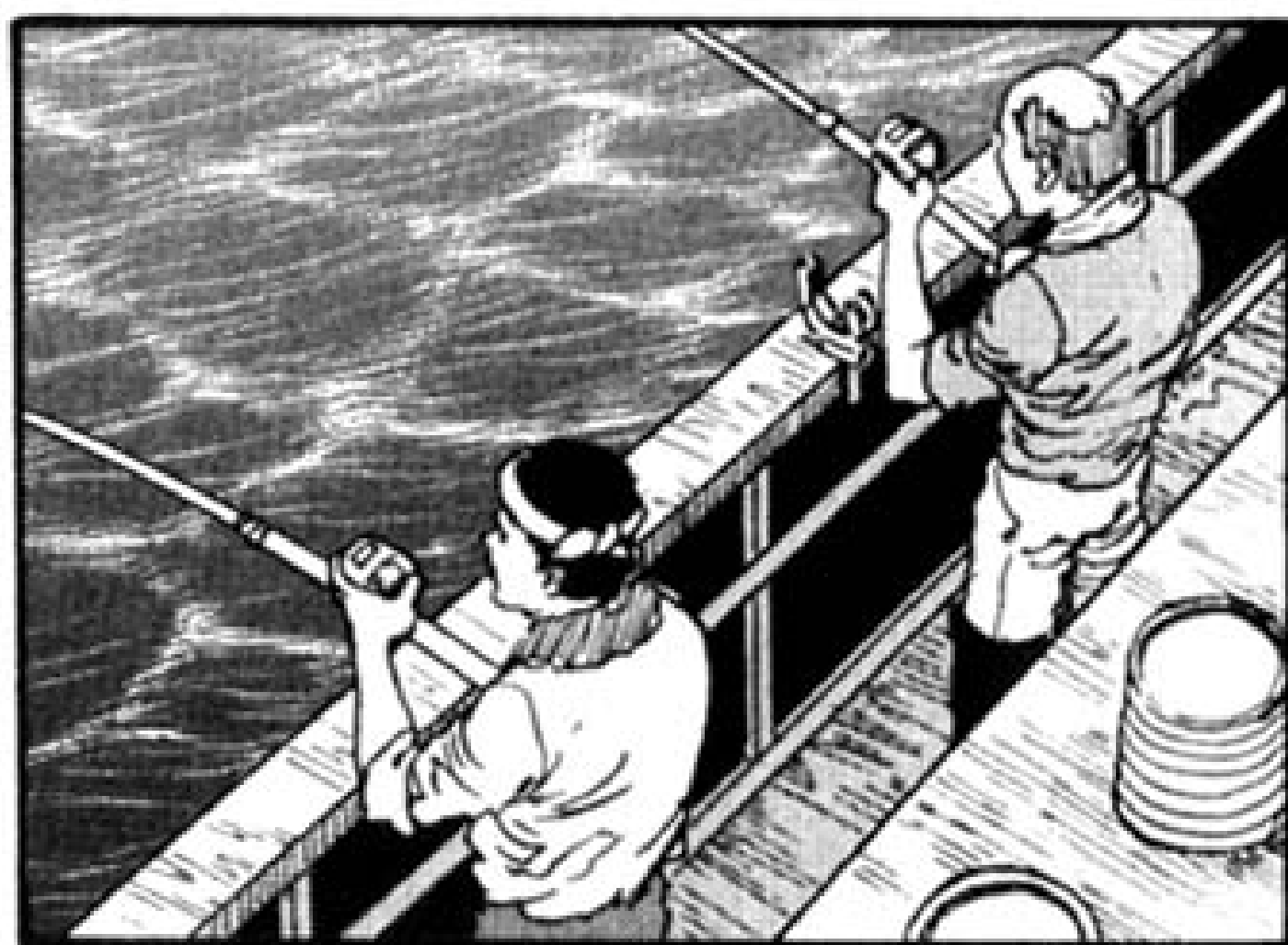
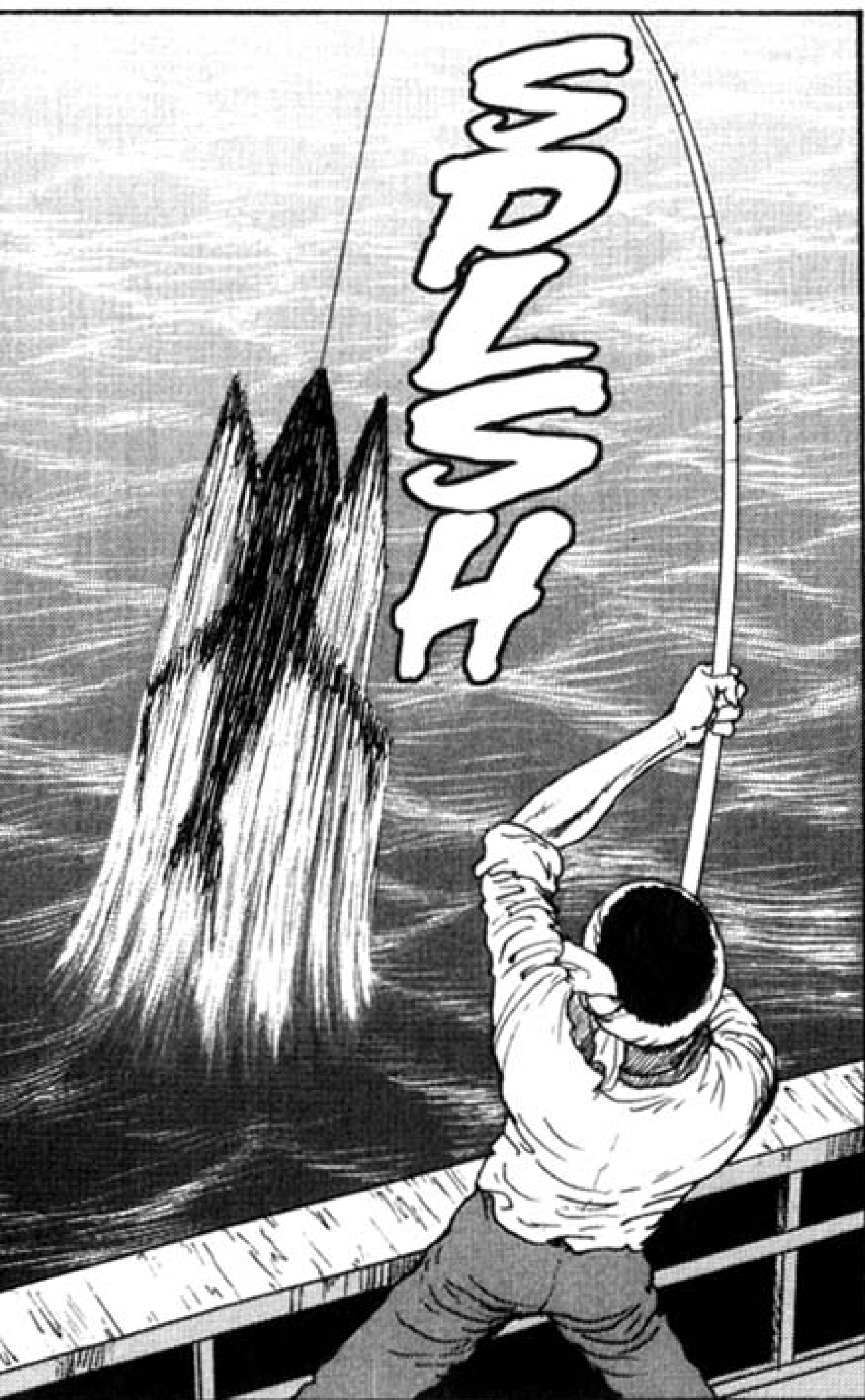
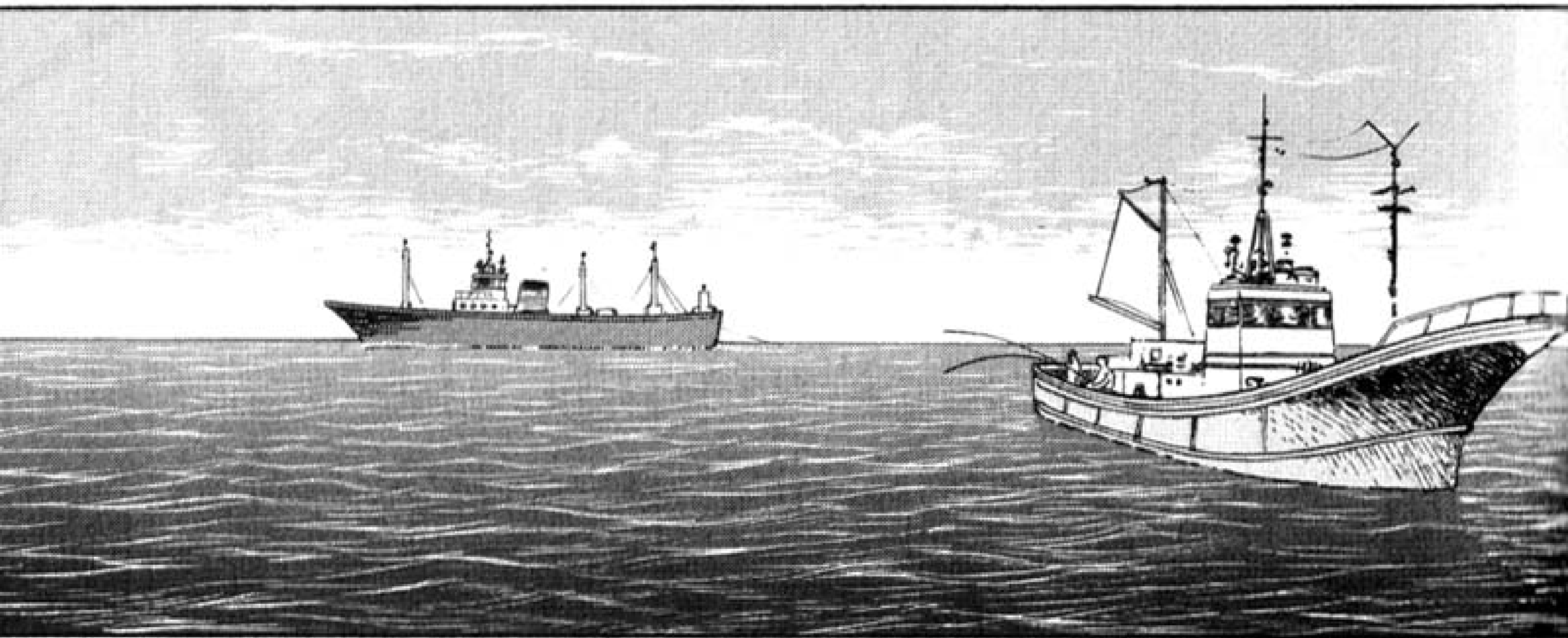


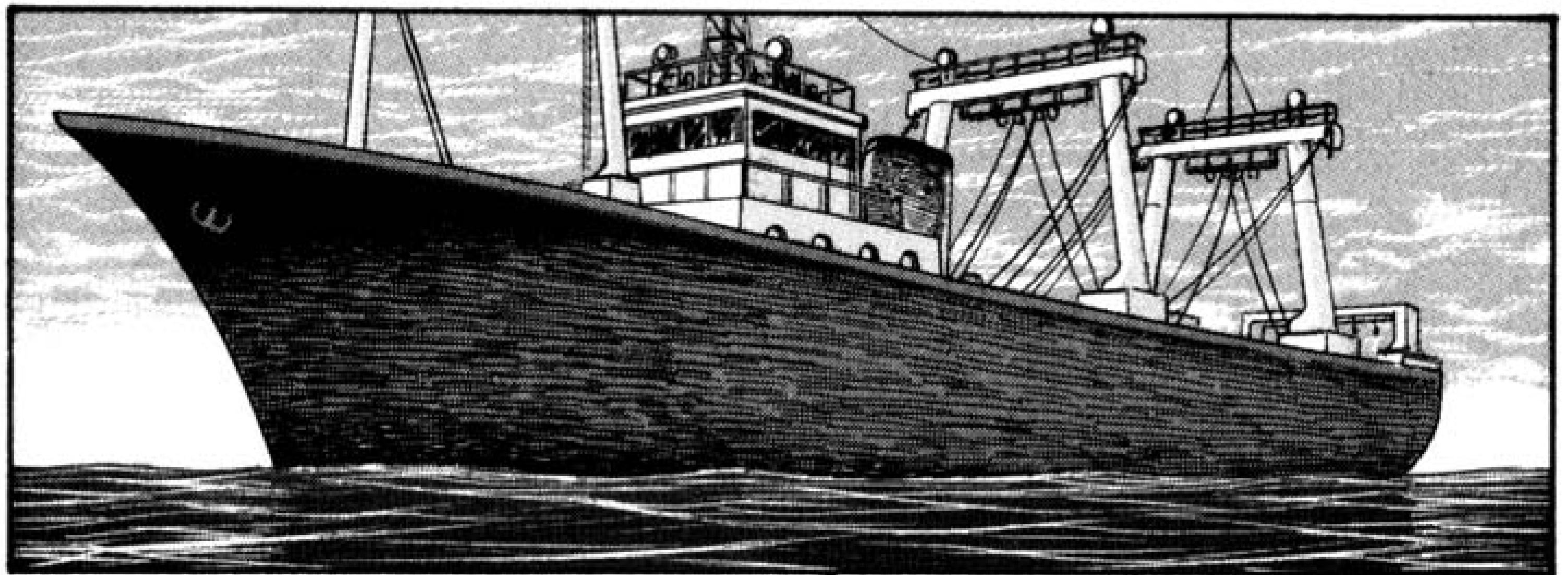
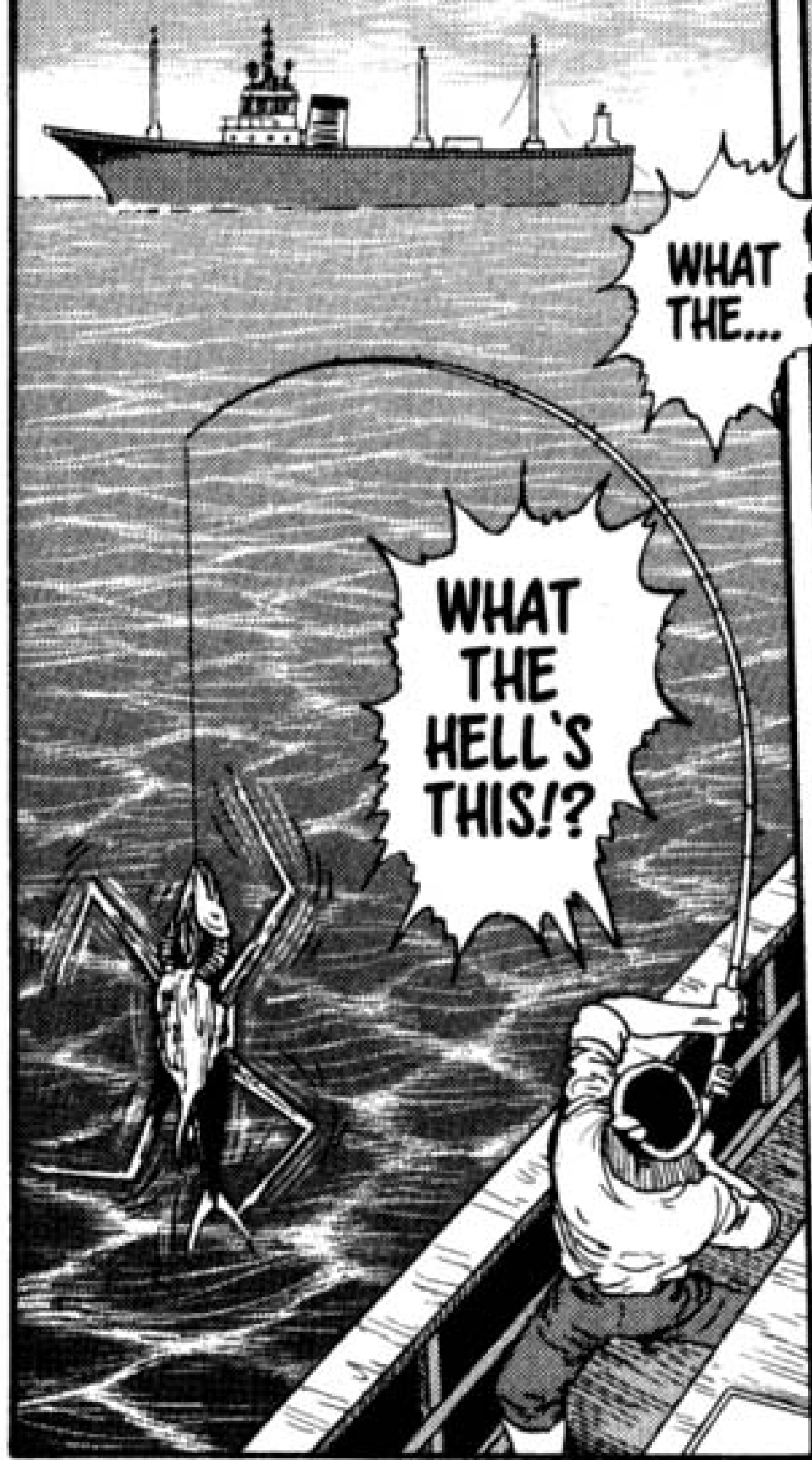




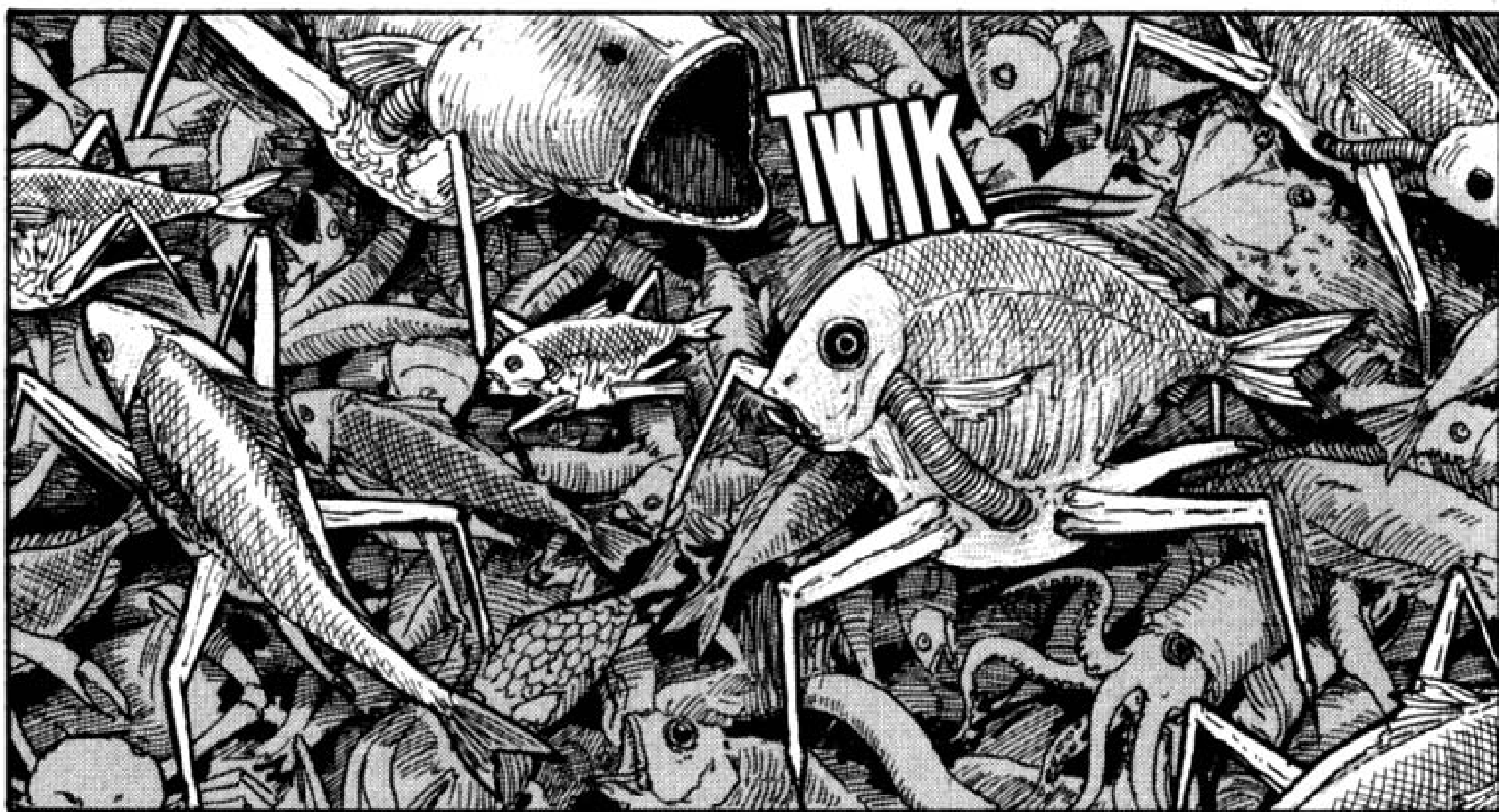
















**STOP THEM!**



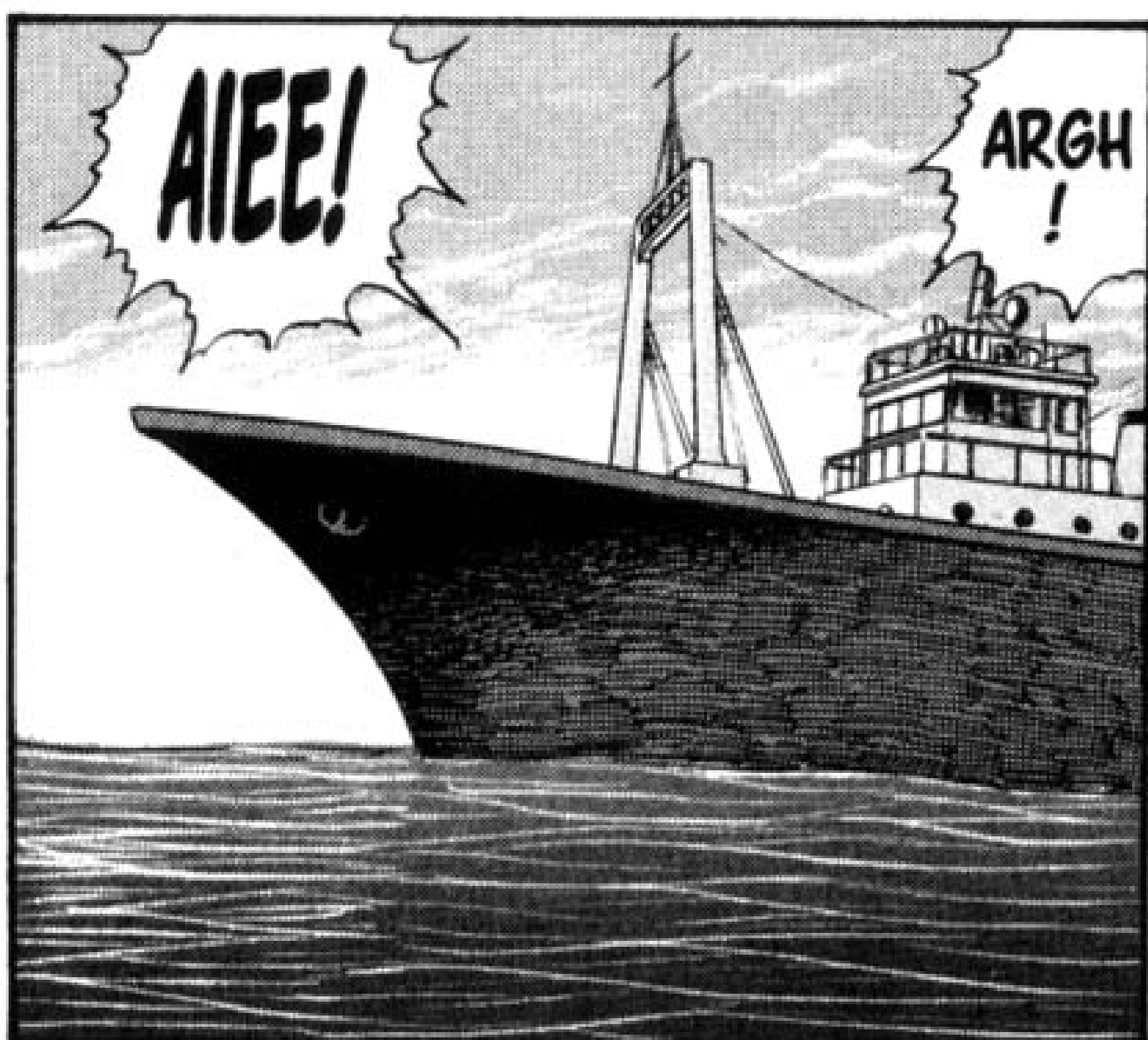
**WHUD**

**WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY!?**



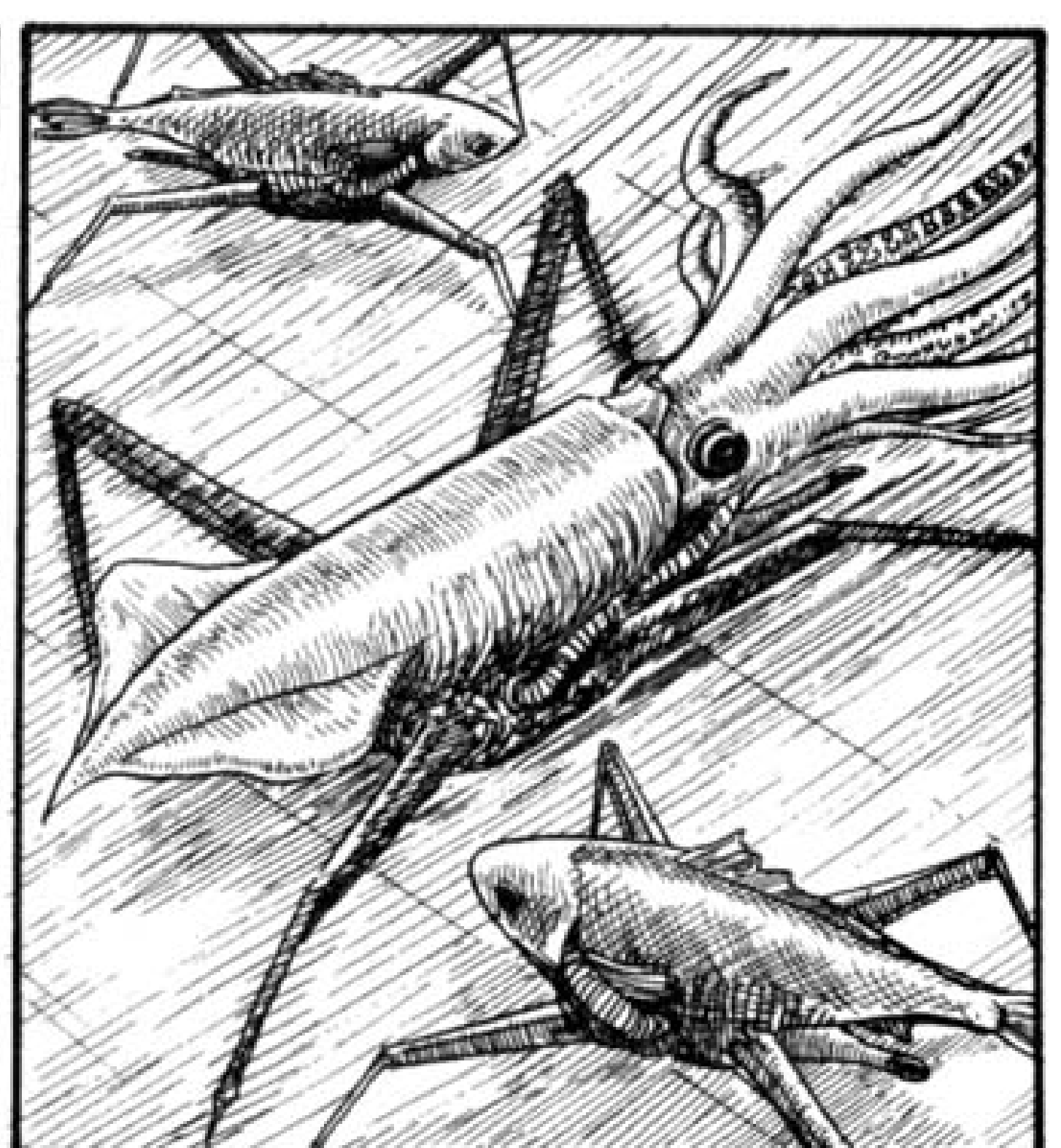
**AGGH! OW OW OW!**

**SKITTA SKITTA**

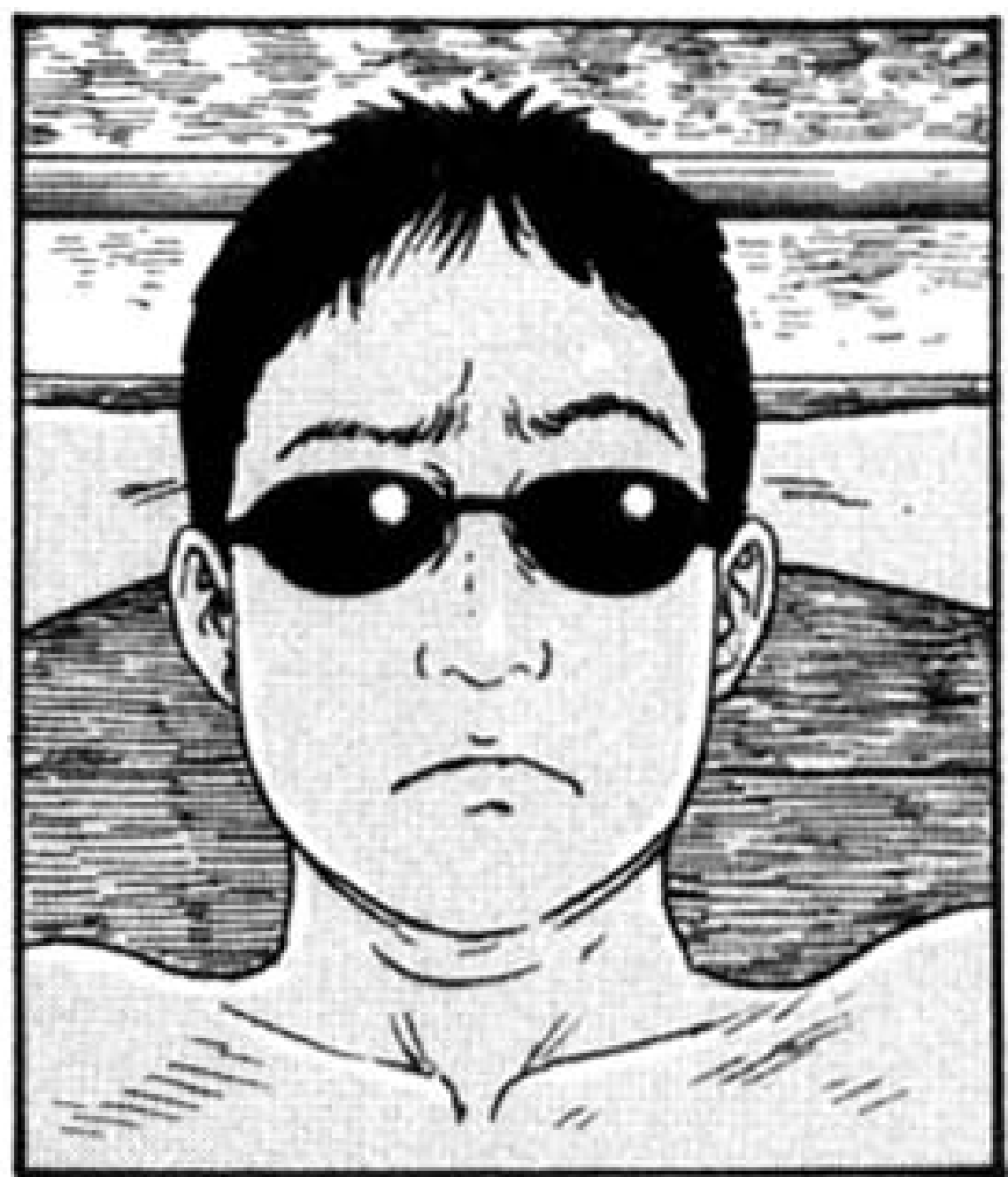
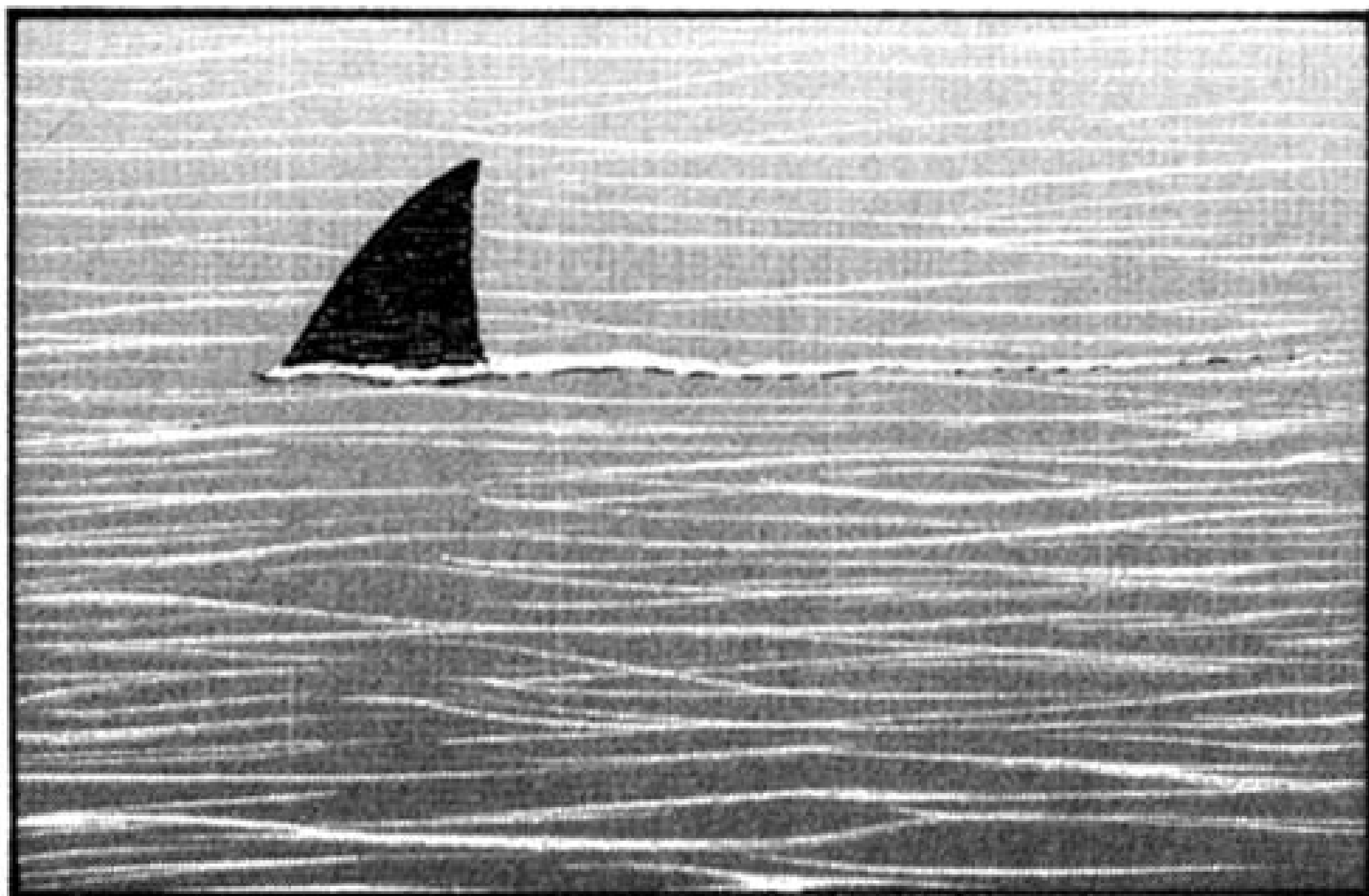
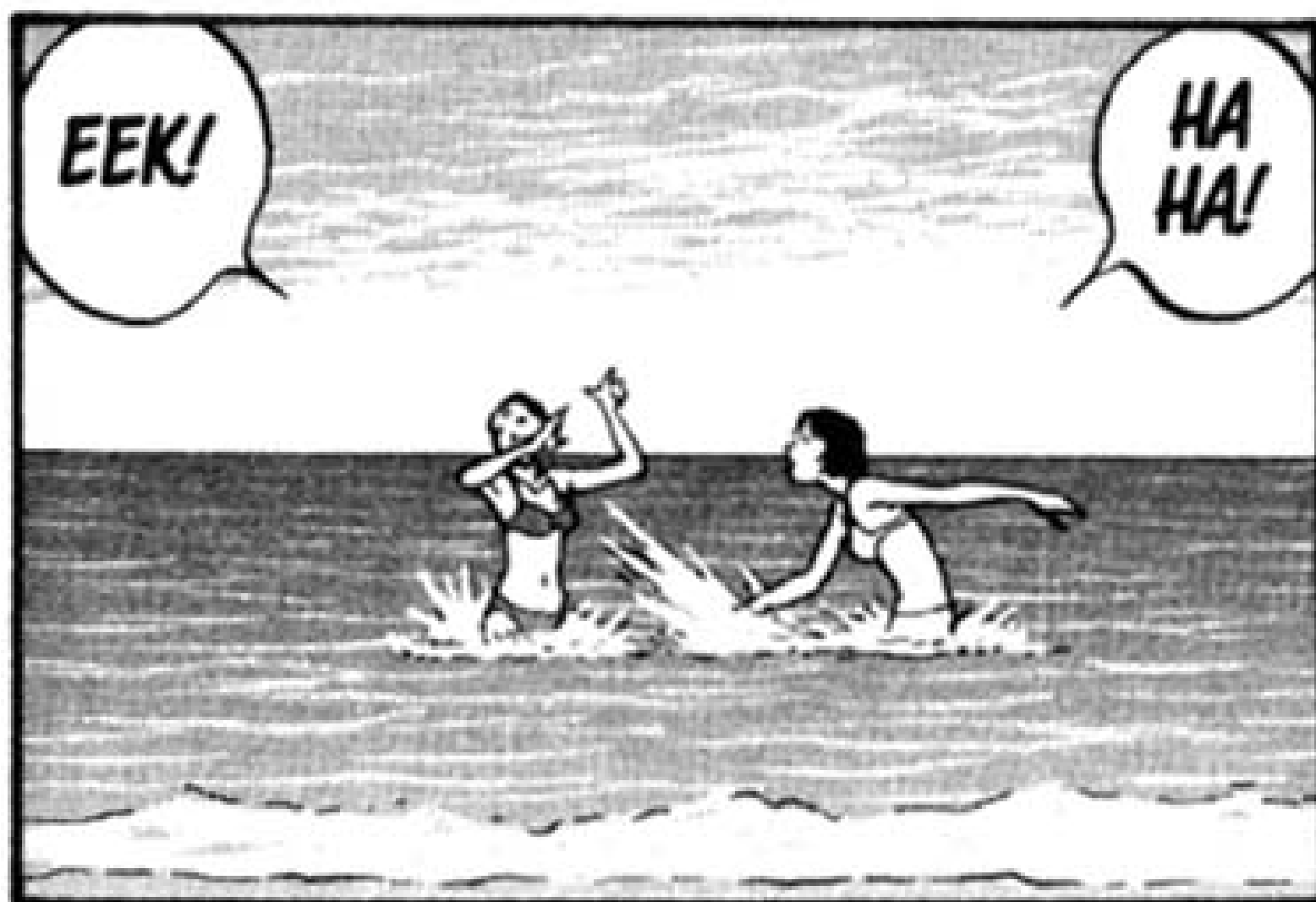


**AIEE!**

**ARGH!**









**GET  
OUT OF  
THE  
WATER!**

**HEY,  
THERE'S  
A  
SHARK!**



**SHARK  
!!**

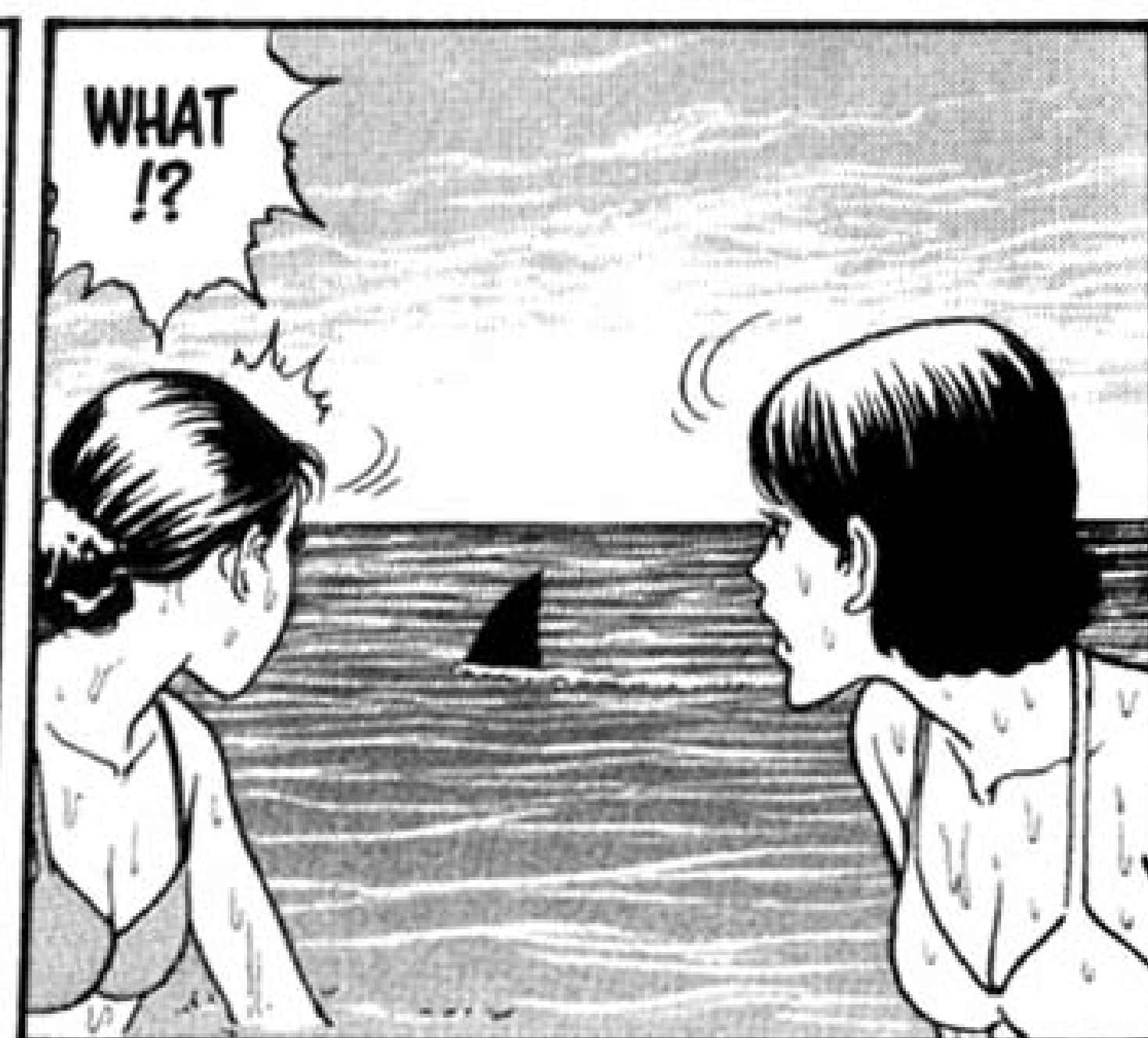
**WHA  
--!?**



**SPLASH**

**SPLASH**

**EEYAGH!**



**WHAT  
!?**

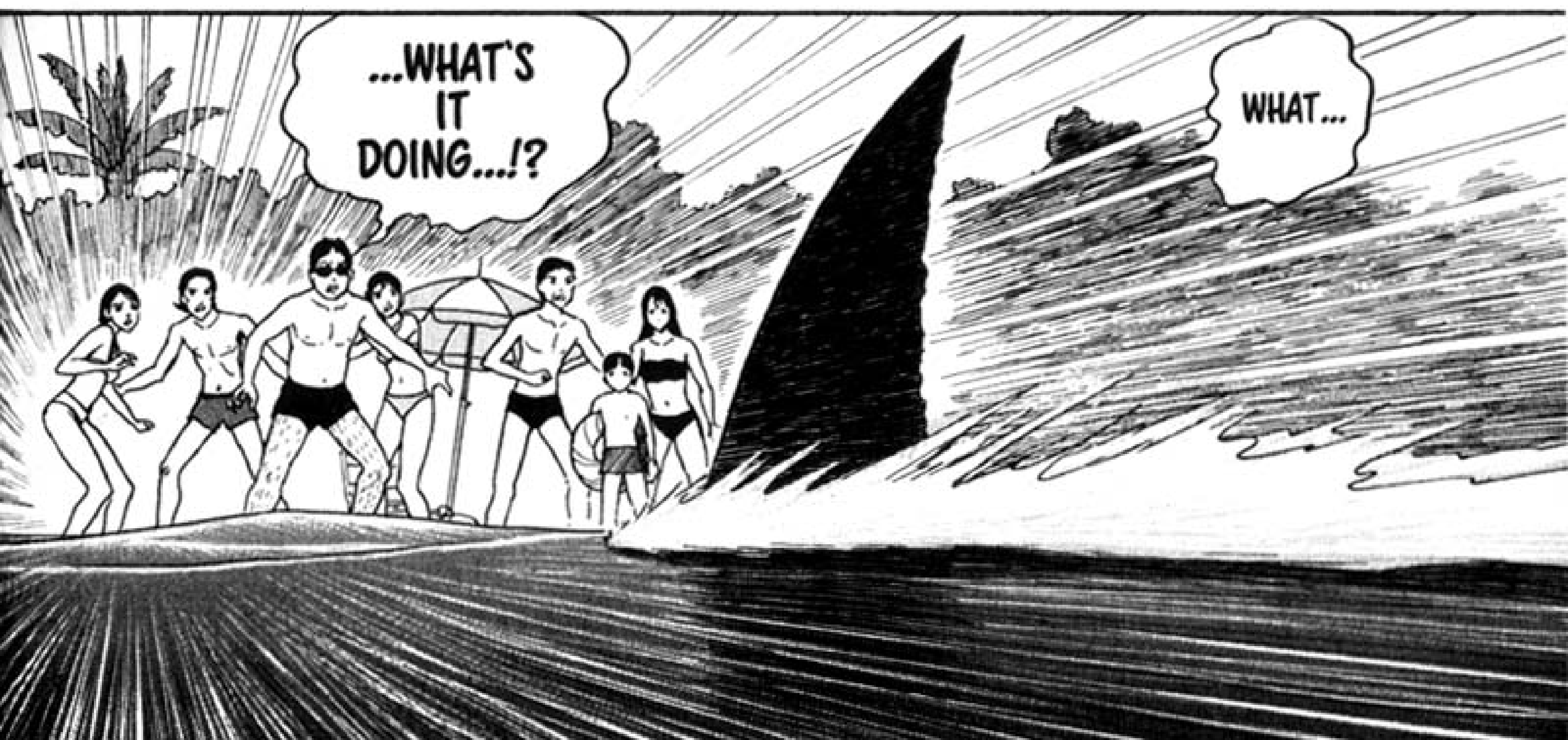
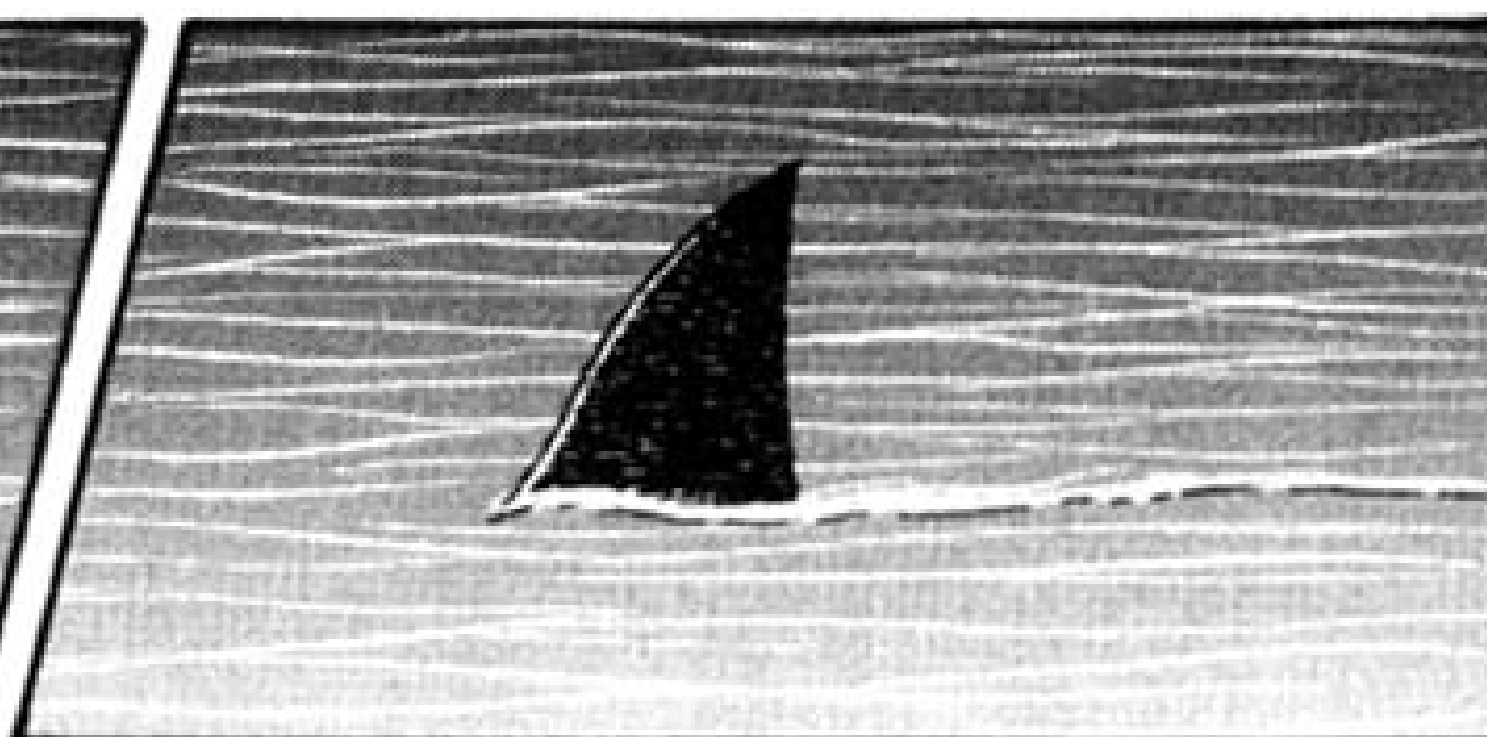
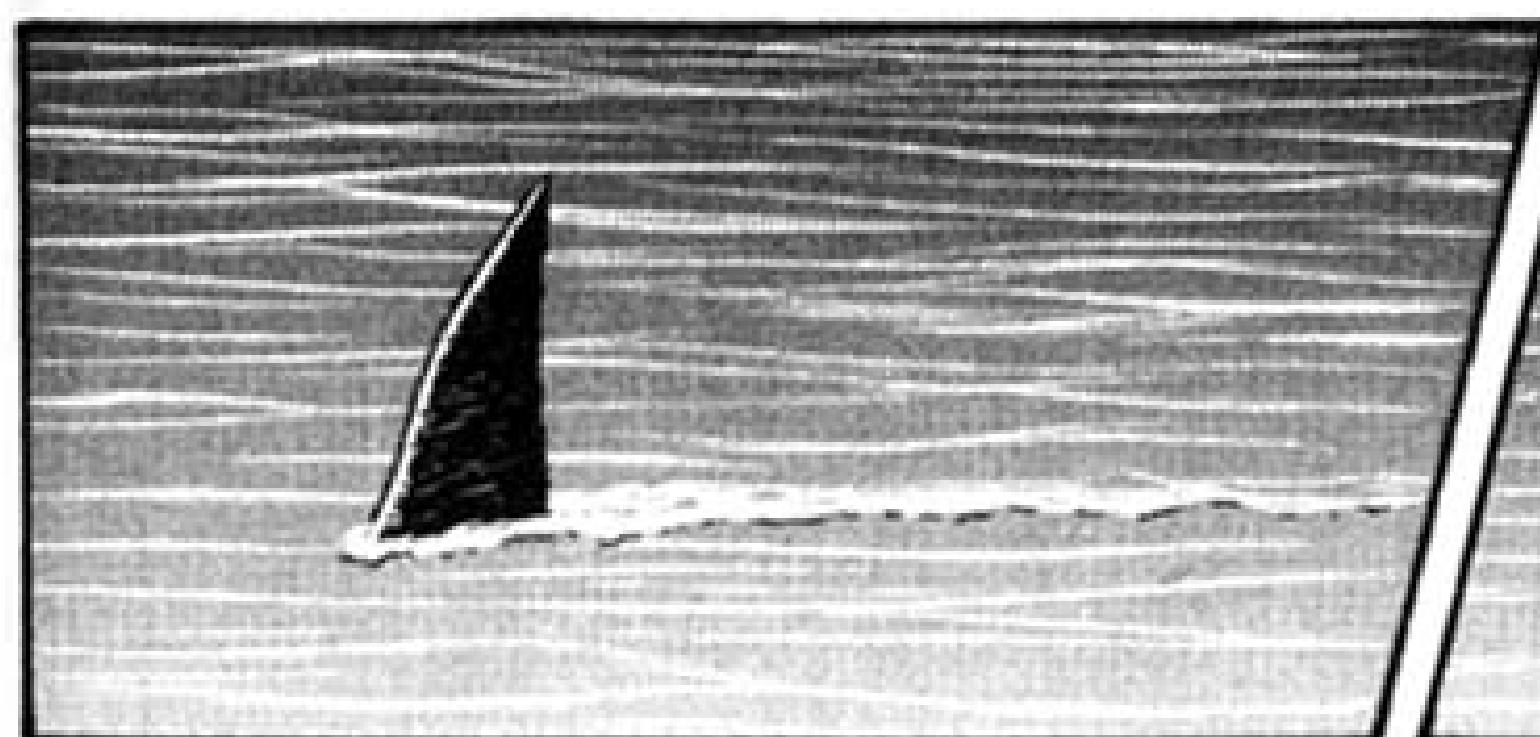


**IS  
EVERYONE  
OUT!?**

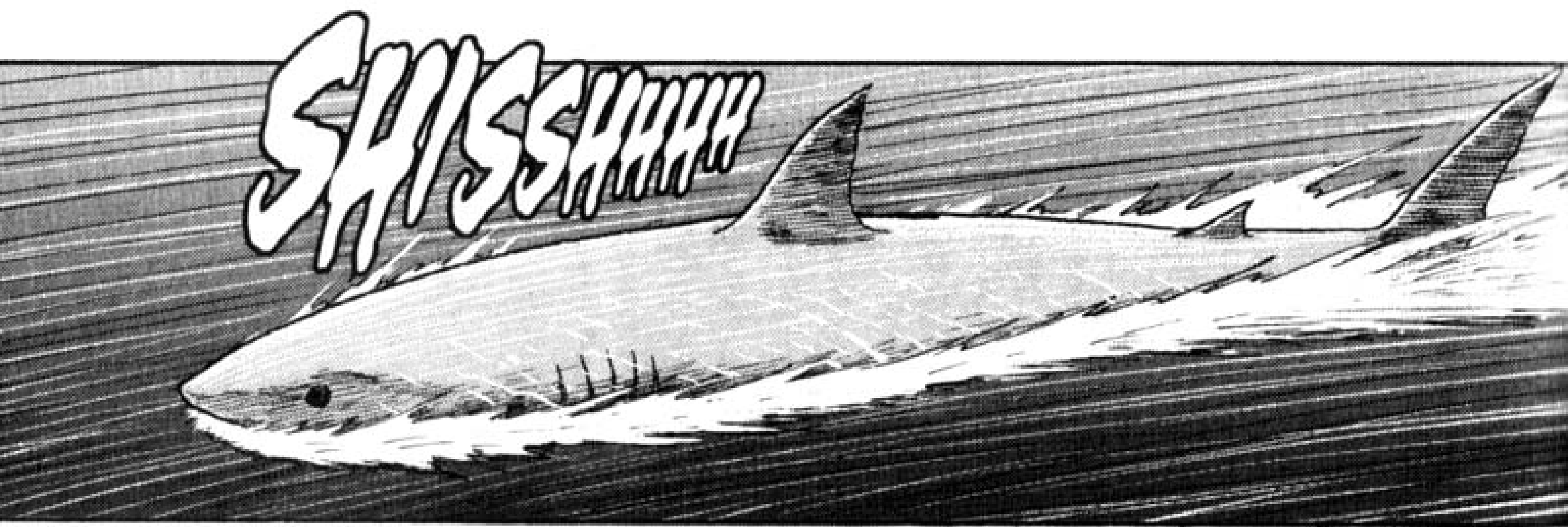


**EEYAGH!**

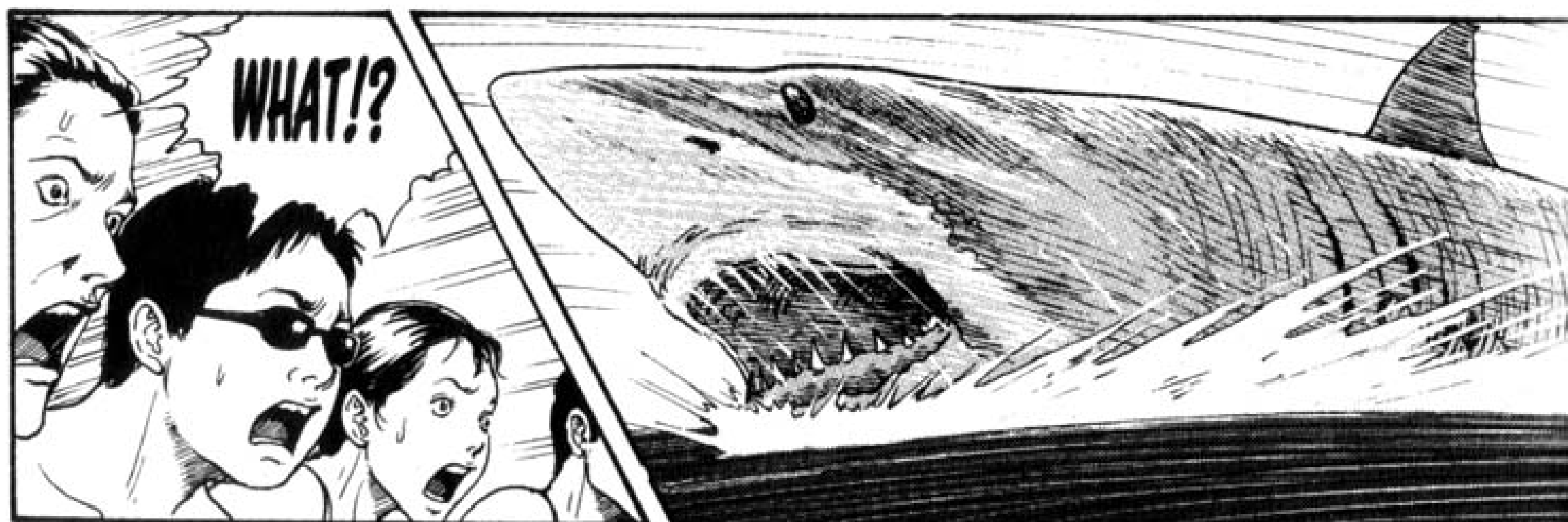
**HURRY!  
GET ONTO  
SHORE!**







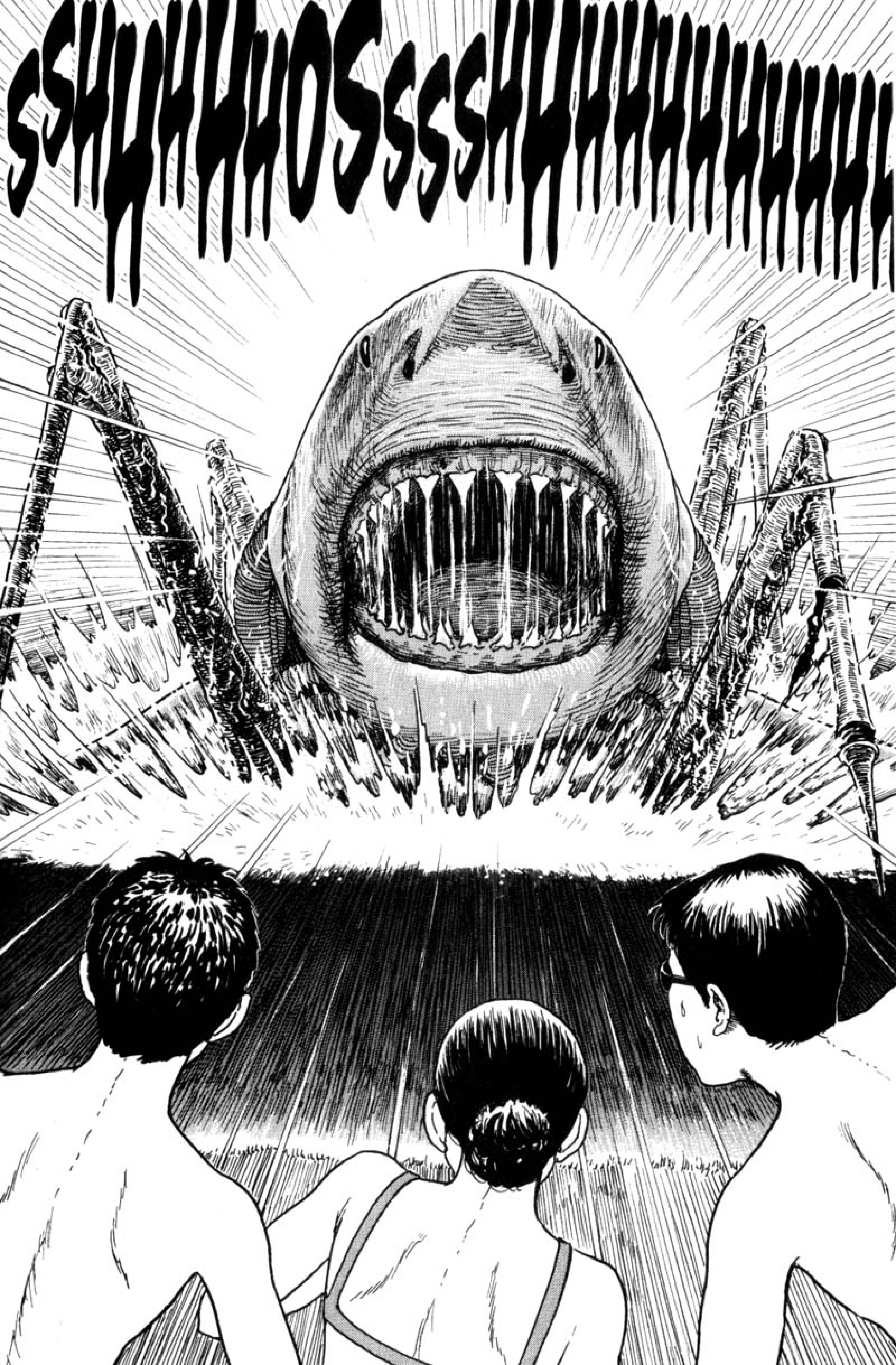
SHISSHHHH



WHAT!?



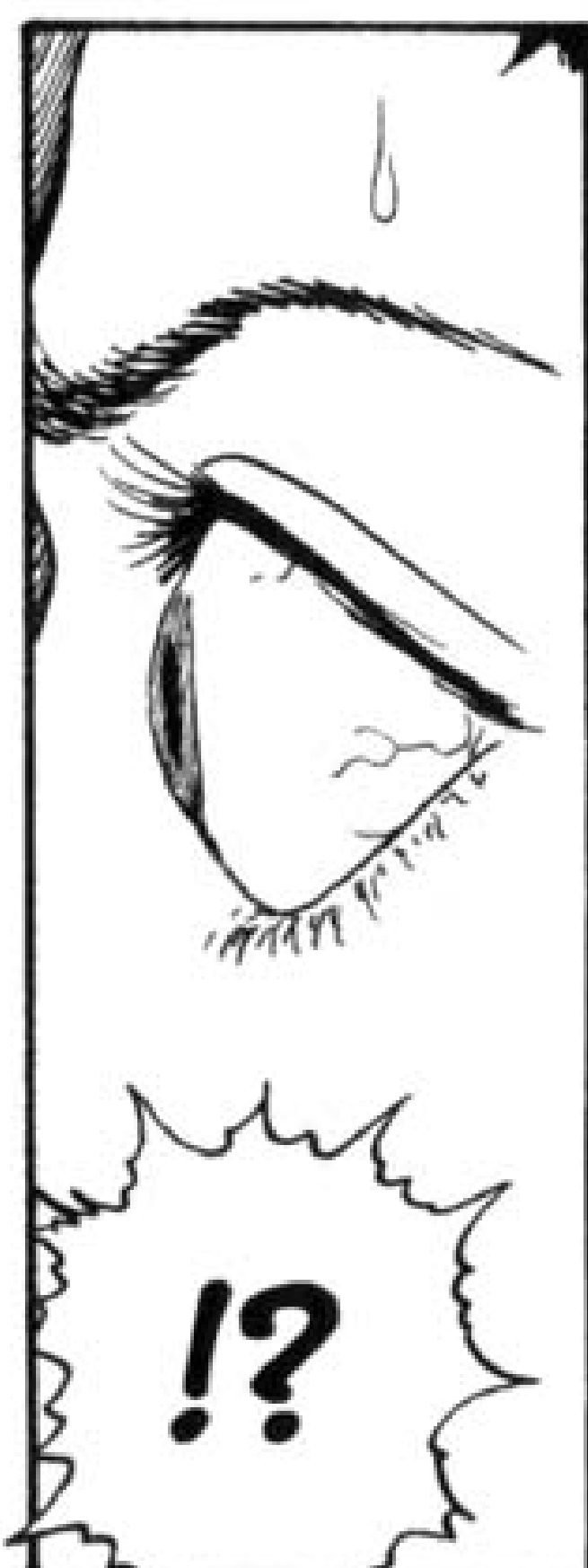
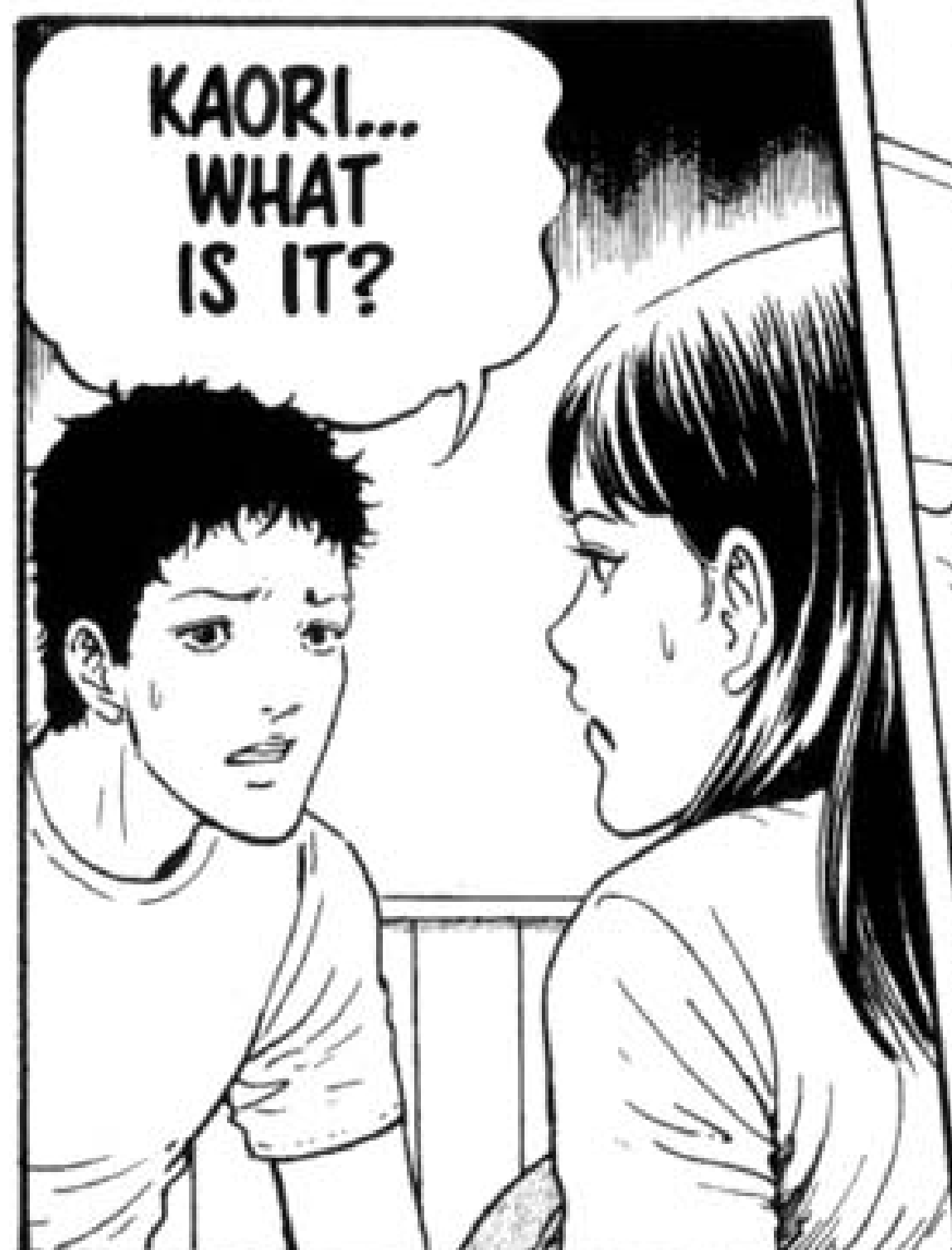
SHHHHOSHSHHHHHHH









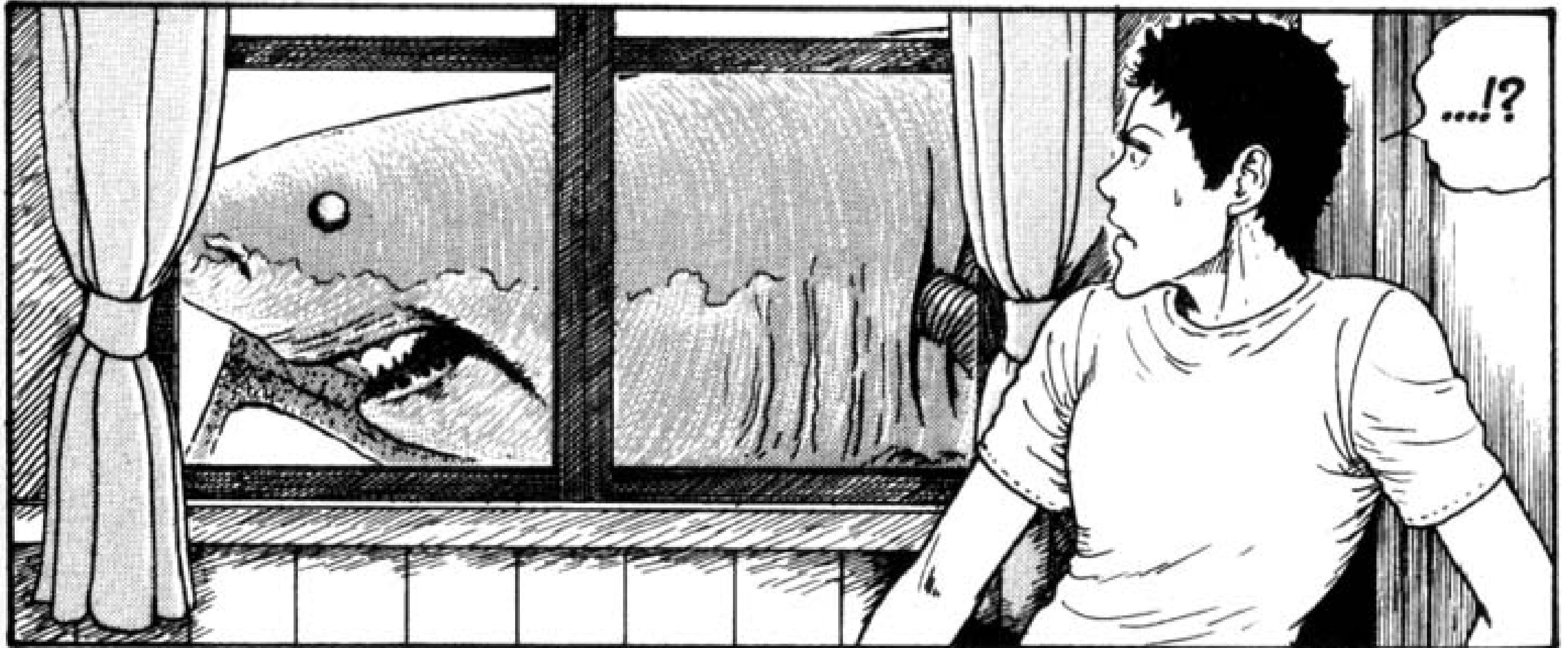


**FSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH**



**GASHINGASHUNK**

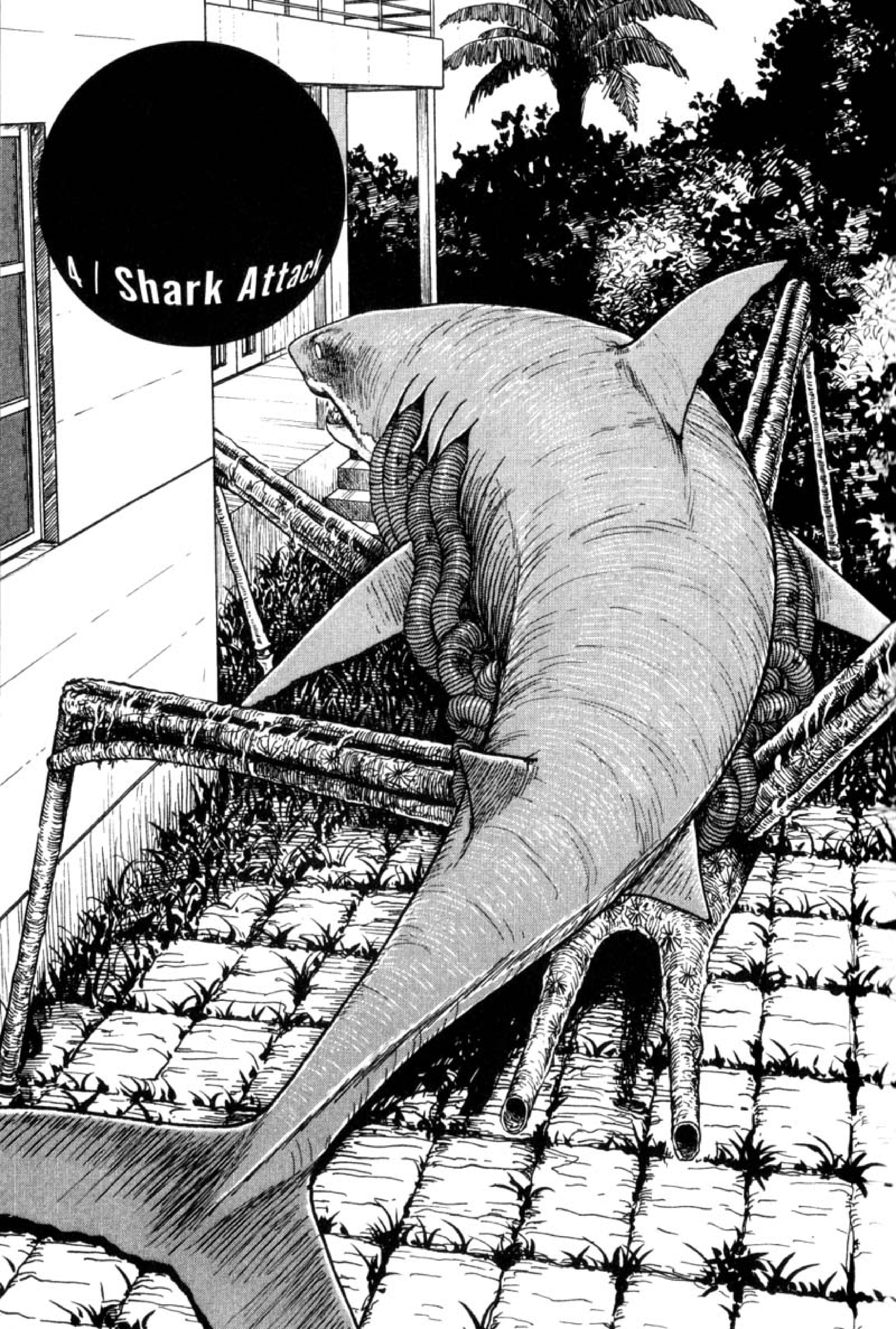
18



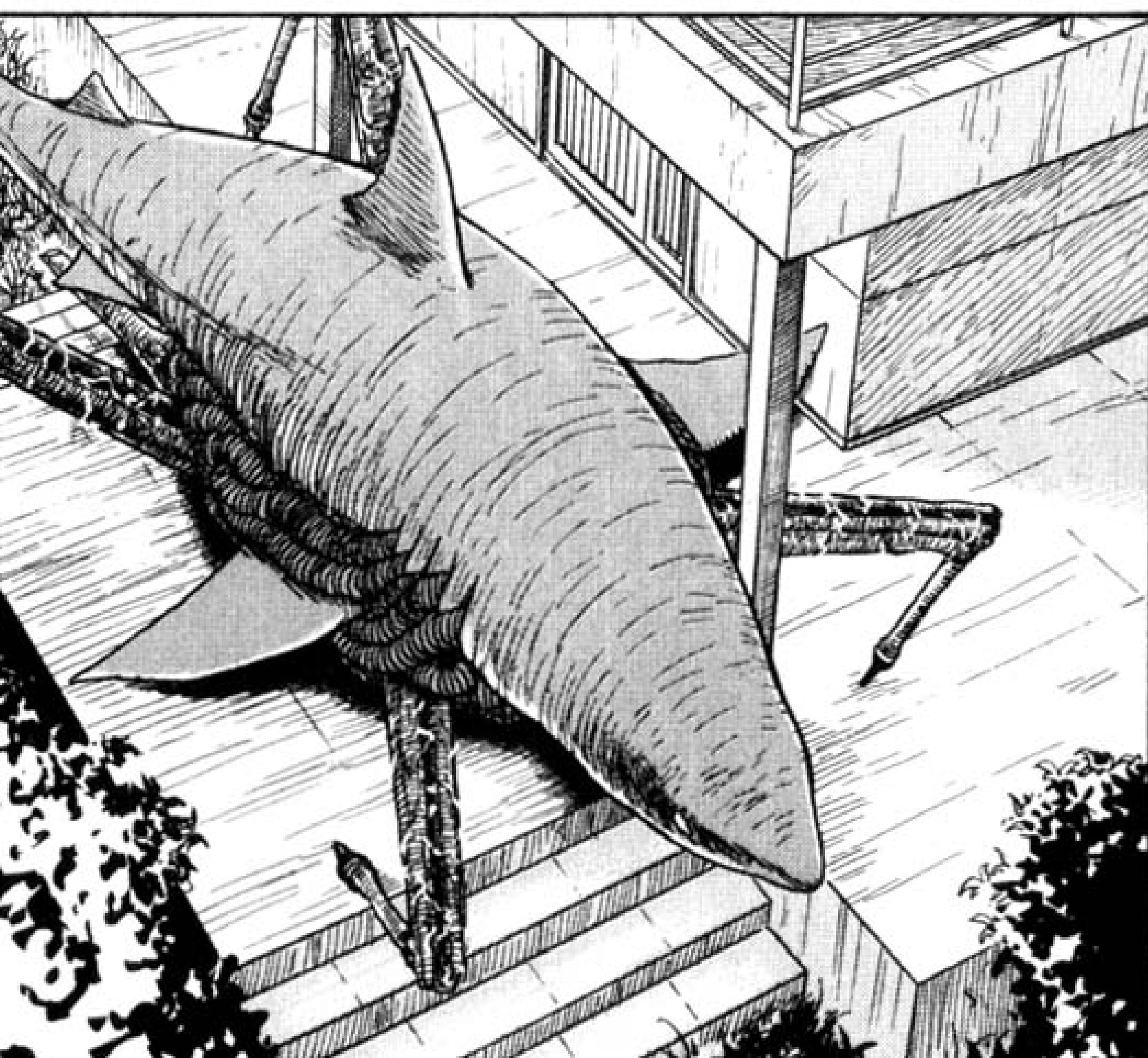
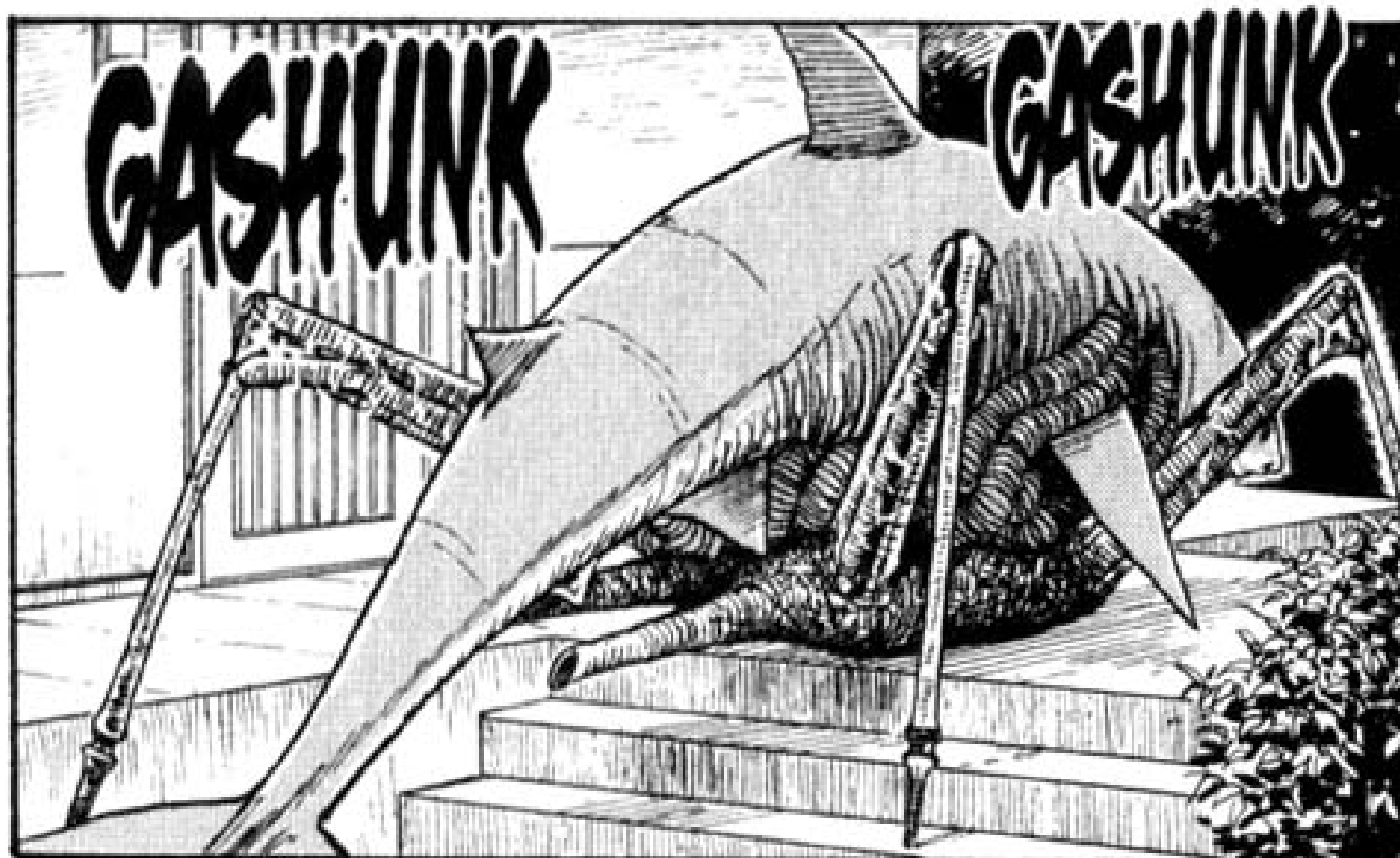
...!?



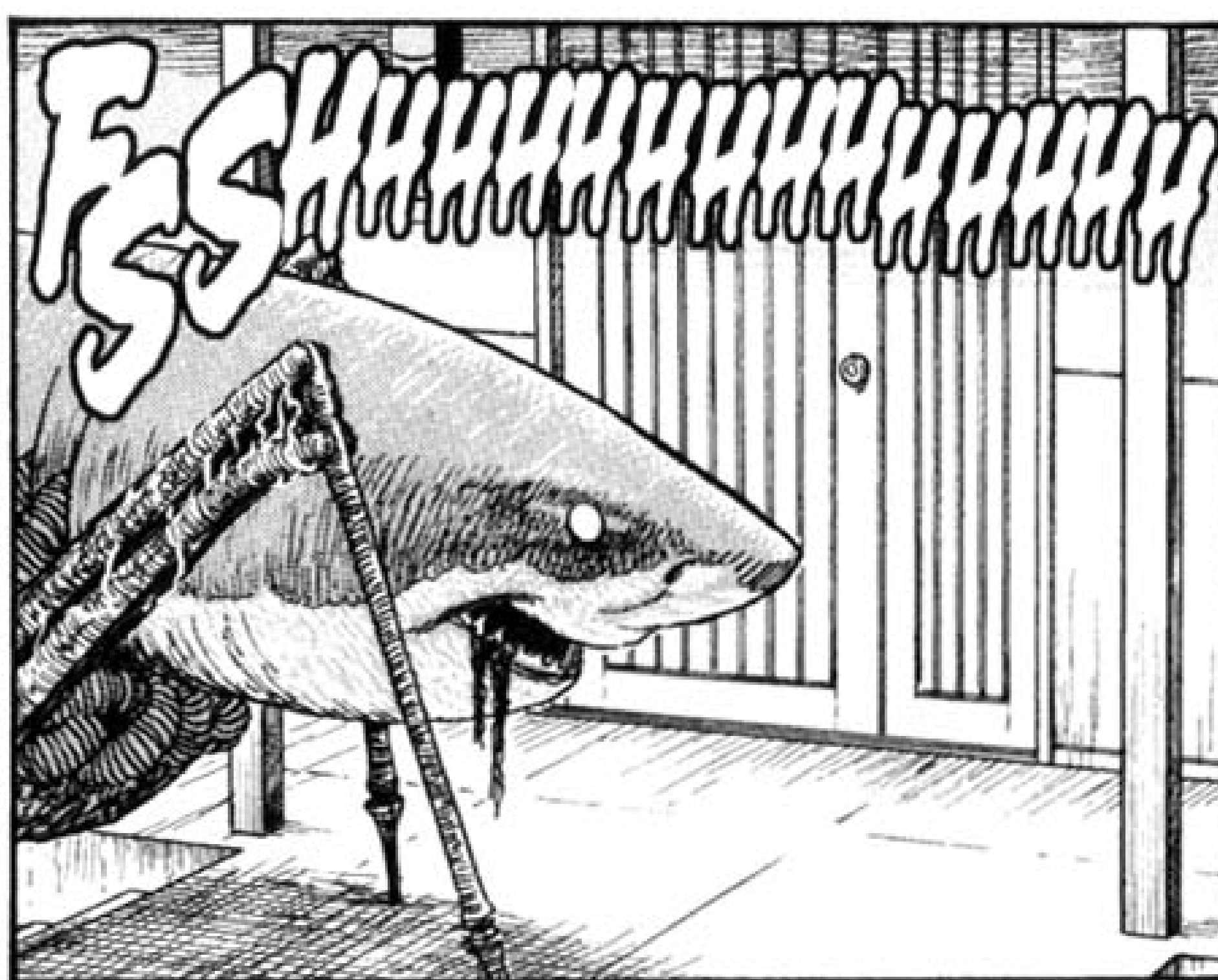
A / *Shark Attack*





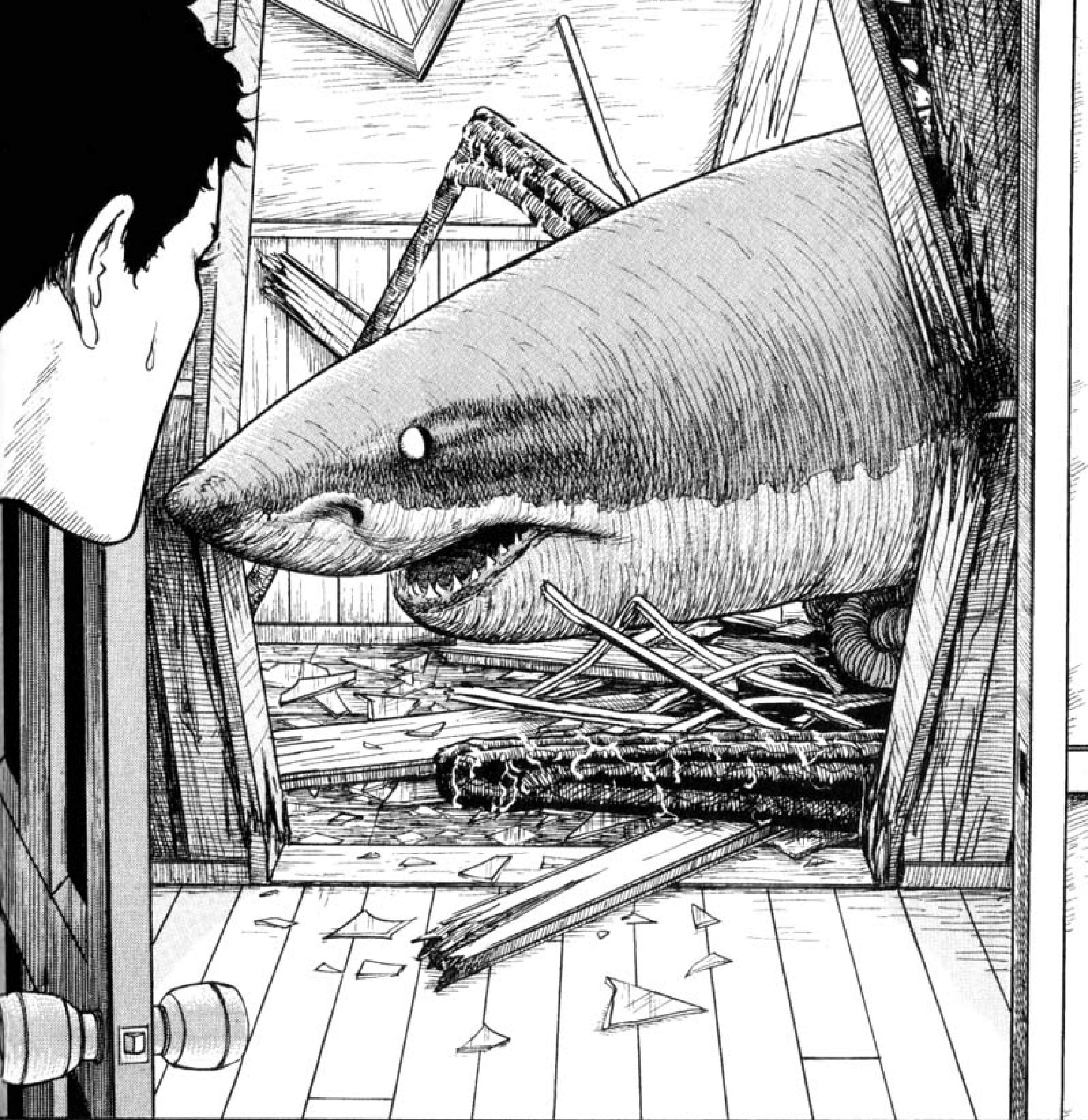






**KRRRAK!**  
**KAKRUNCH!**

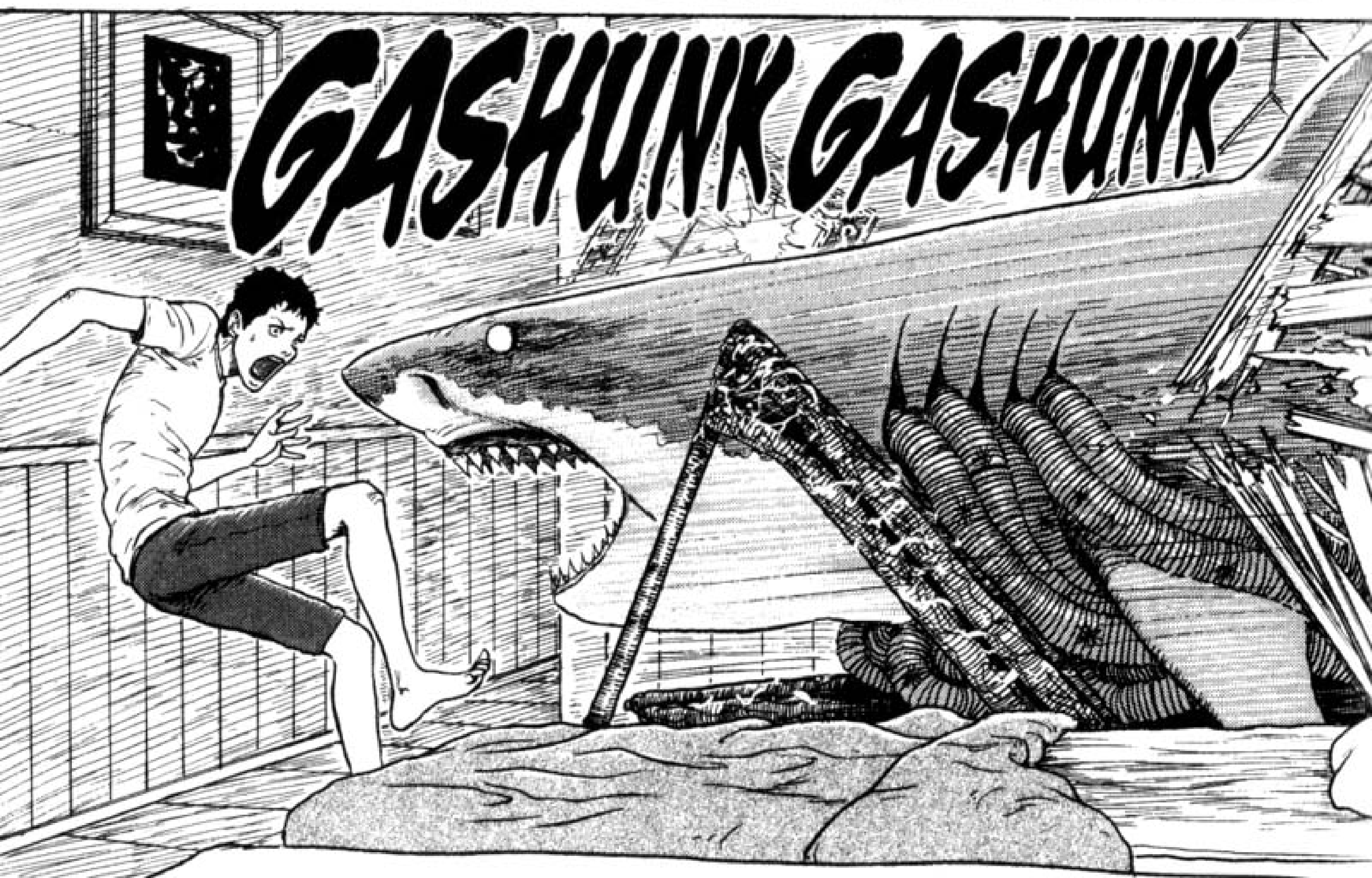






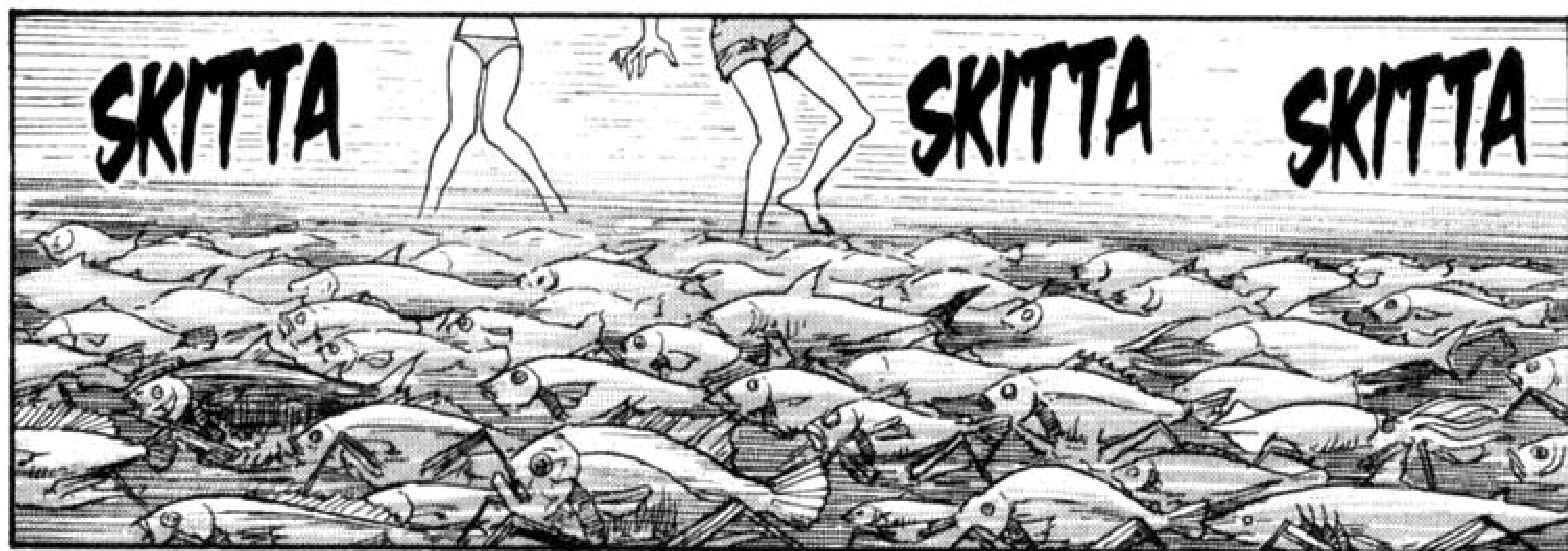
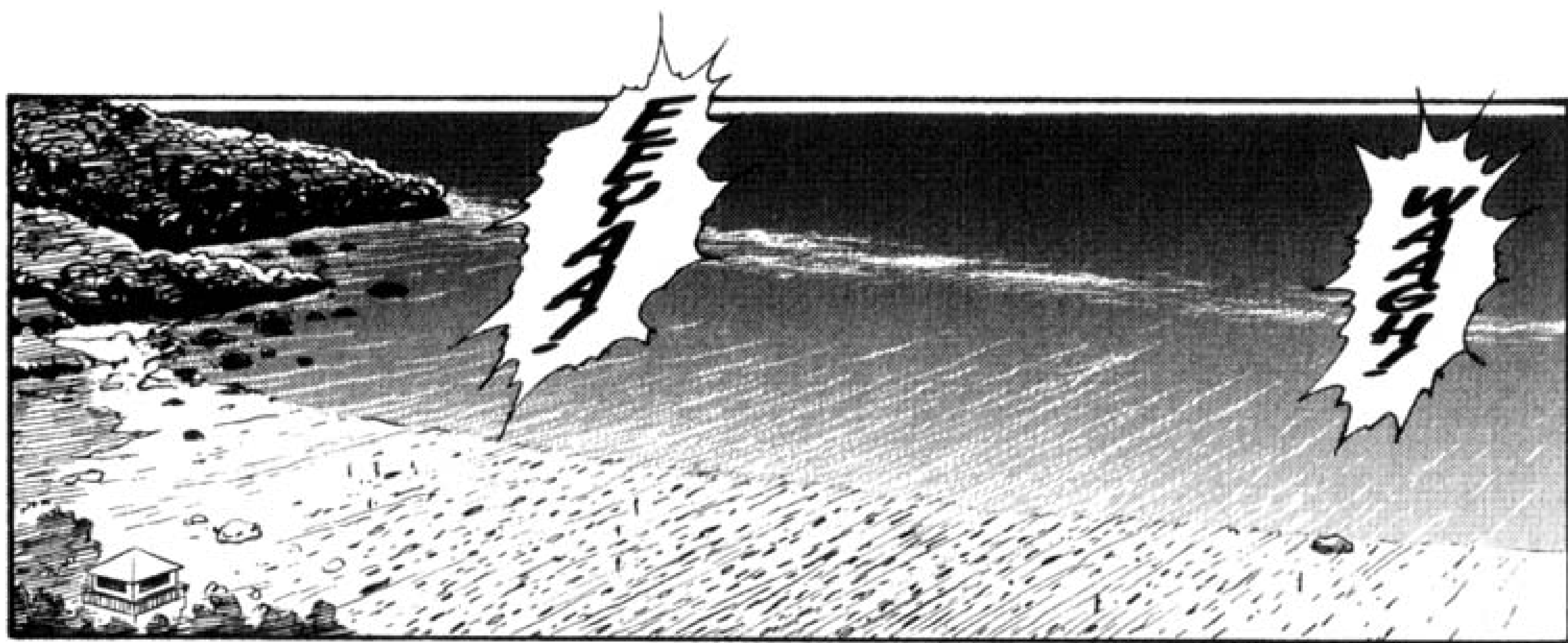


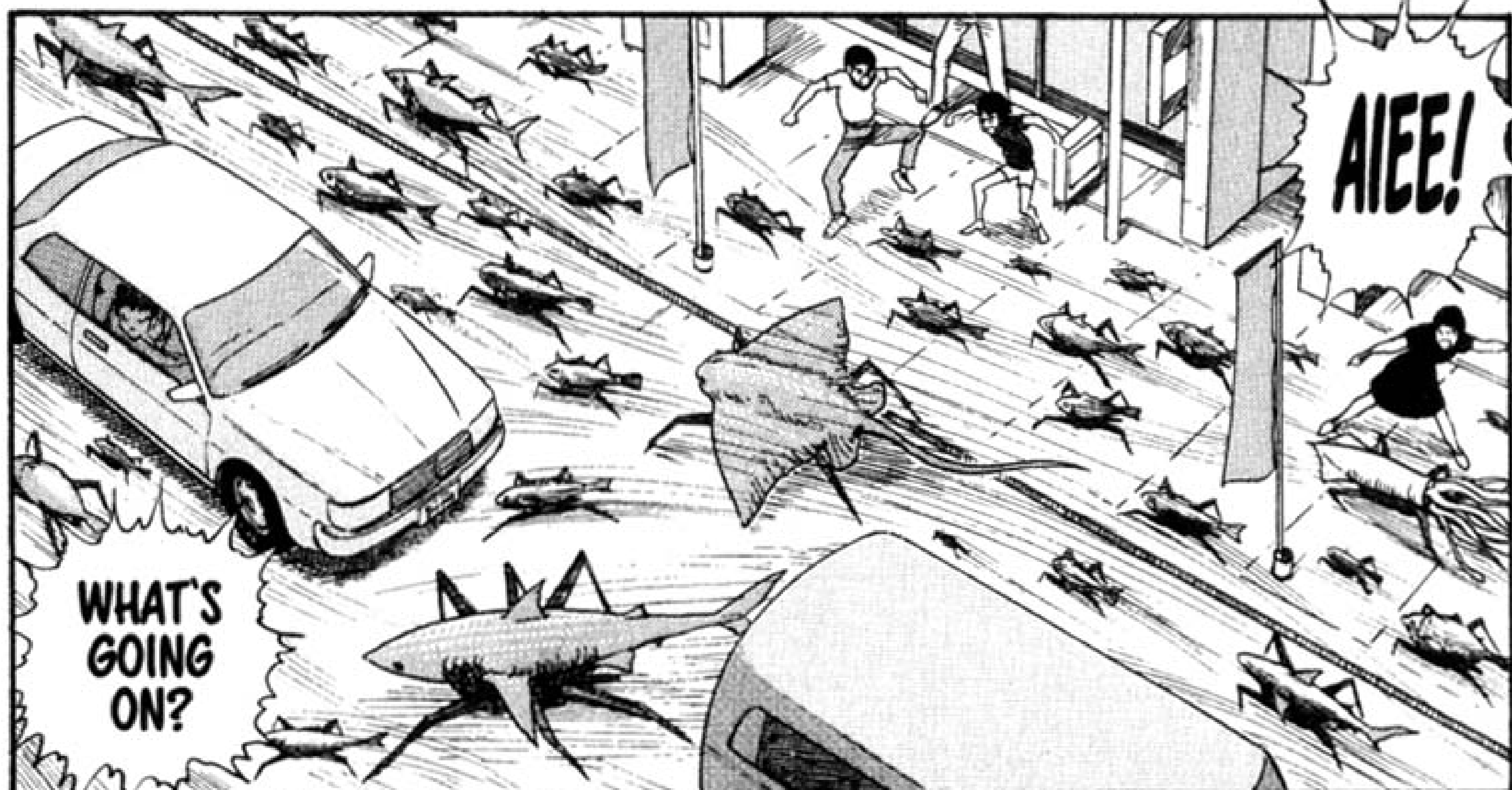












WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



THE  
FISH...  
THE FISH  
ARE  
WALKING  
...!?



SMELLS  
LIKE  
THEY'RE  
ROTTEN!

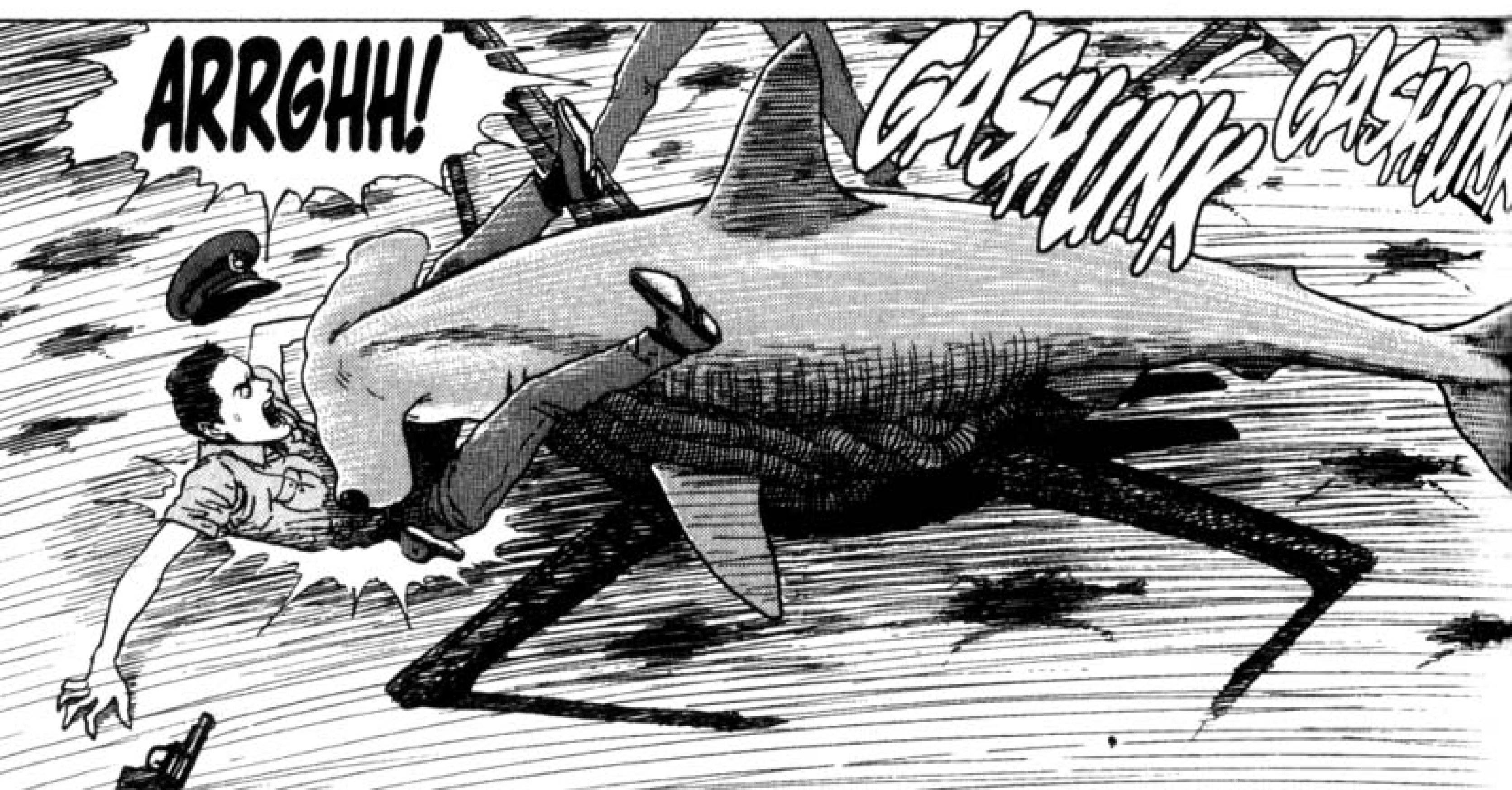
WHAT  
A  
STINK!



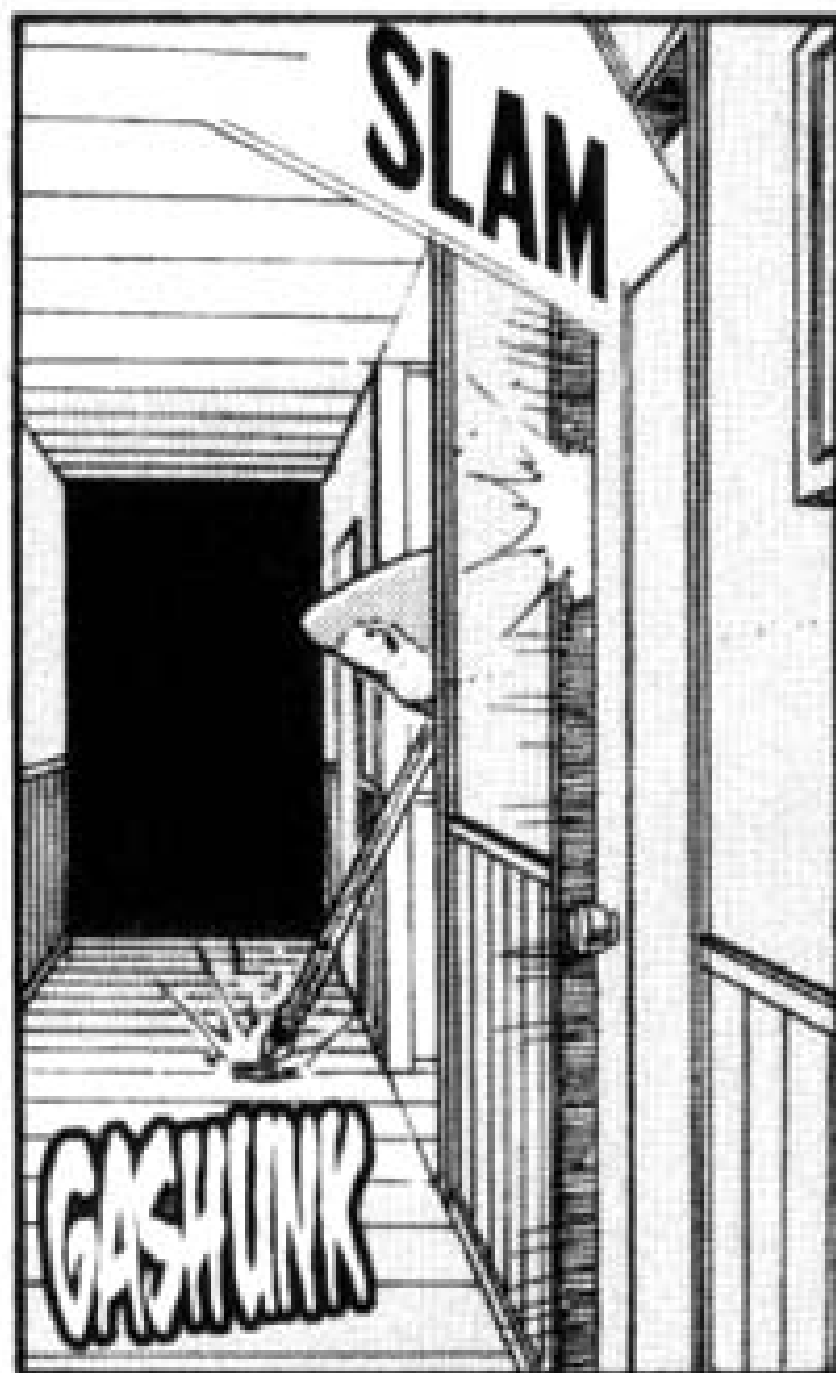
THERE'S  
TOO  
MANY!

CALL  
FOR  
BACK-  
UP!!













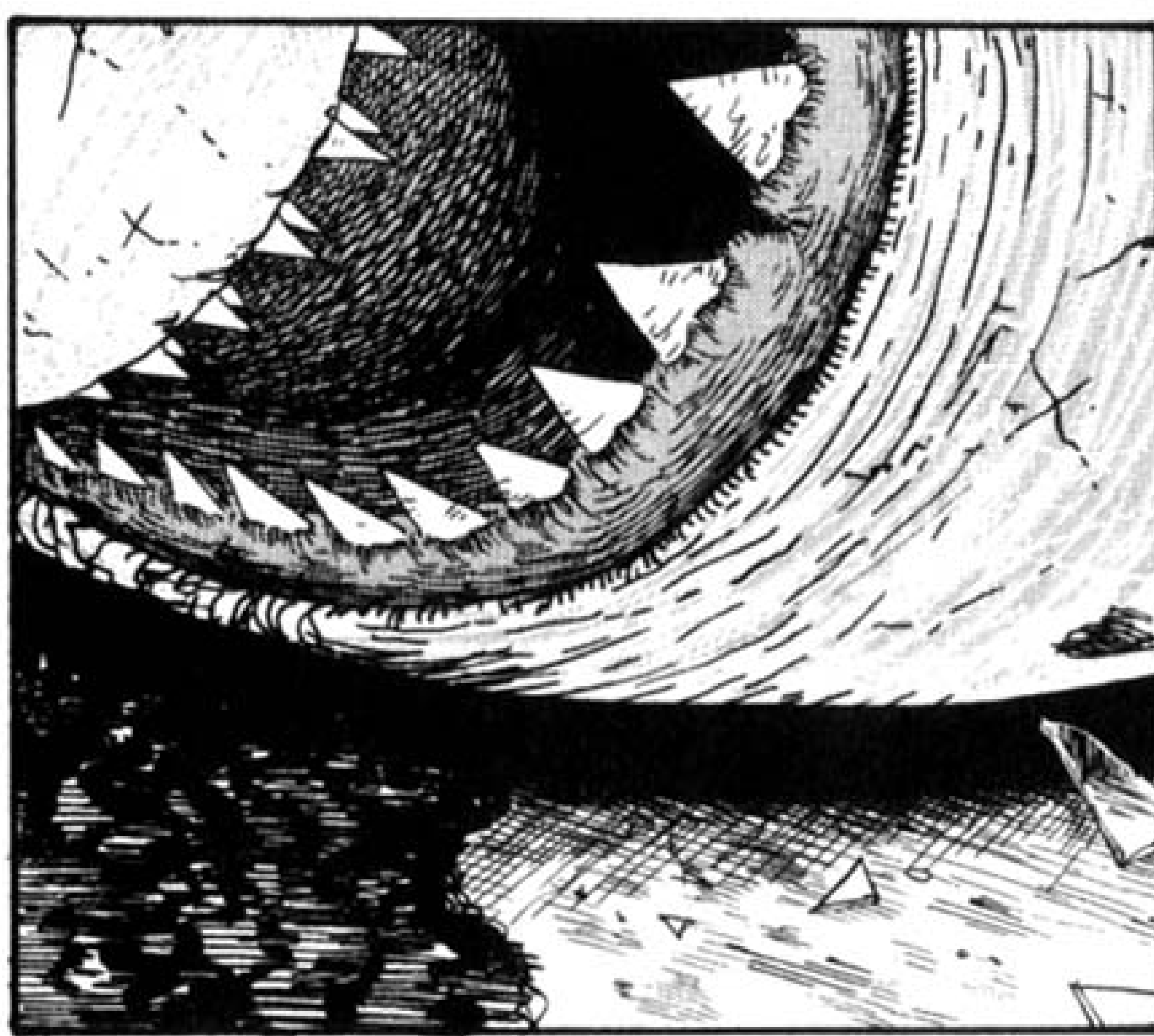
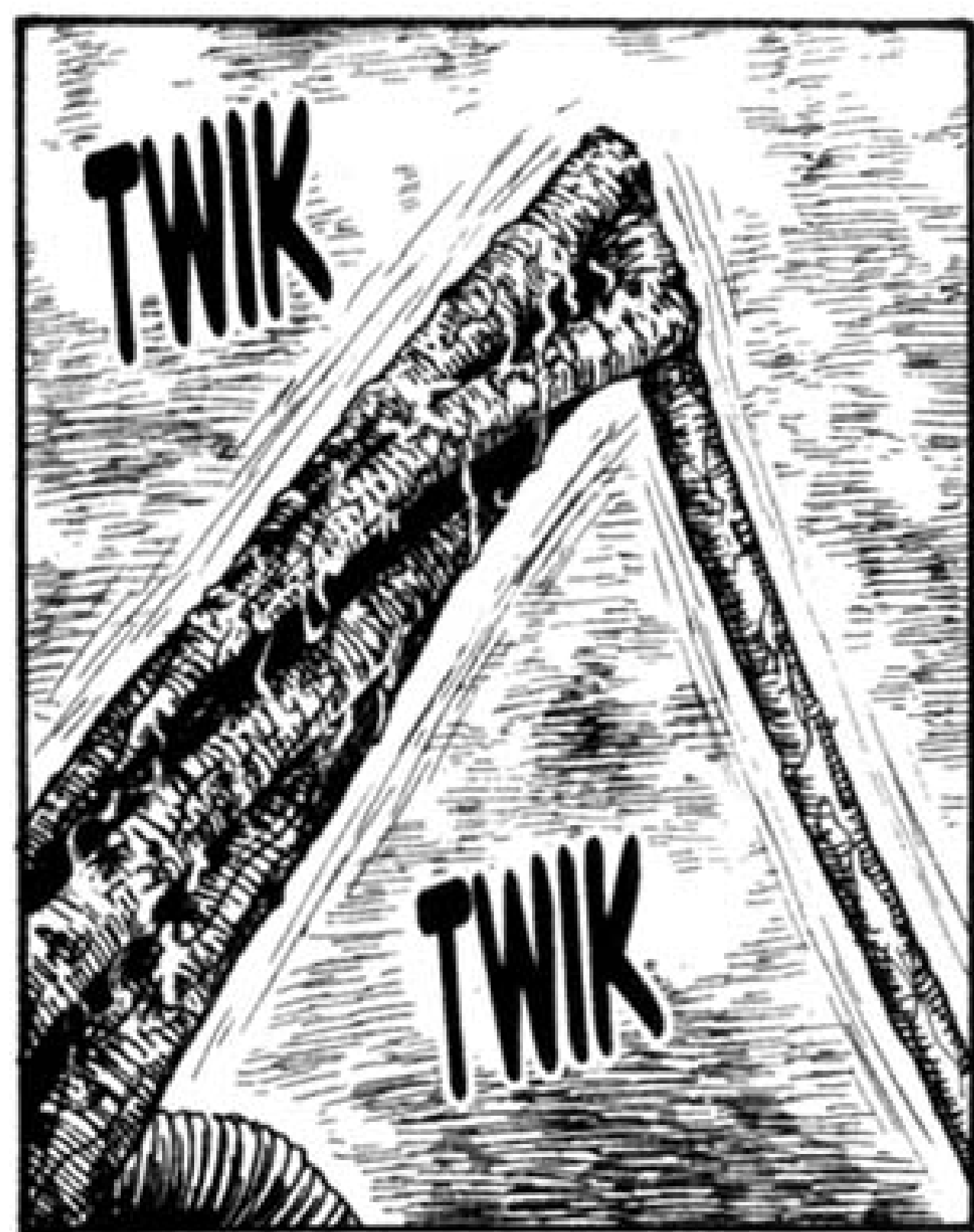
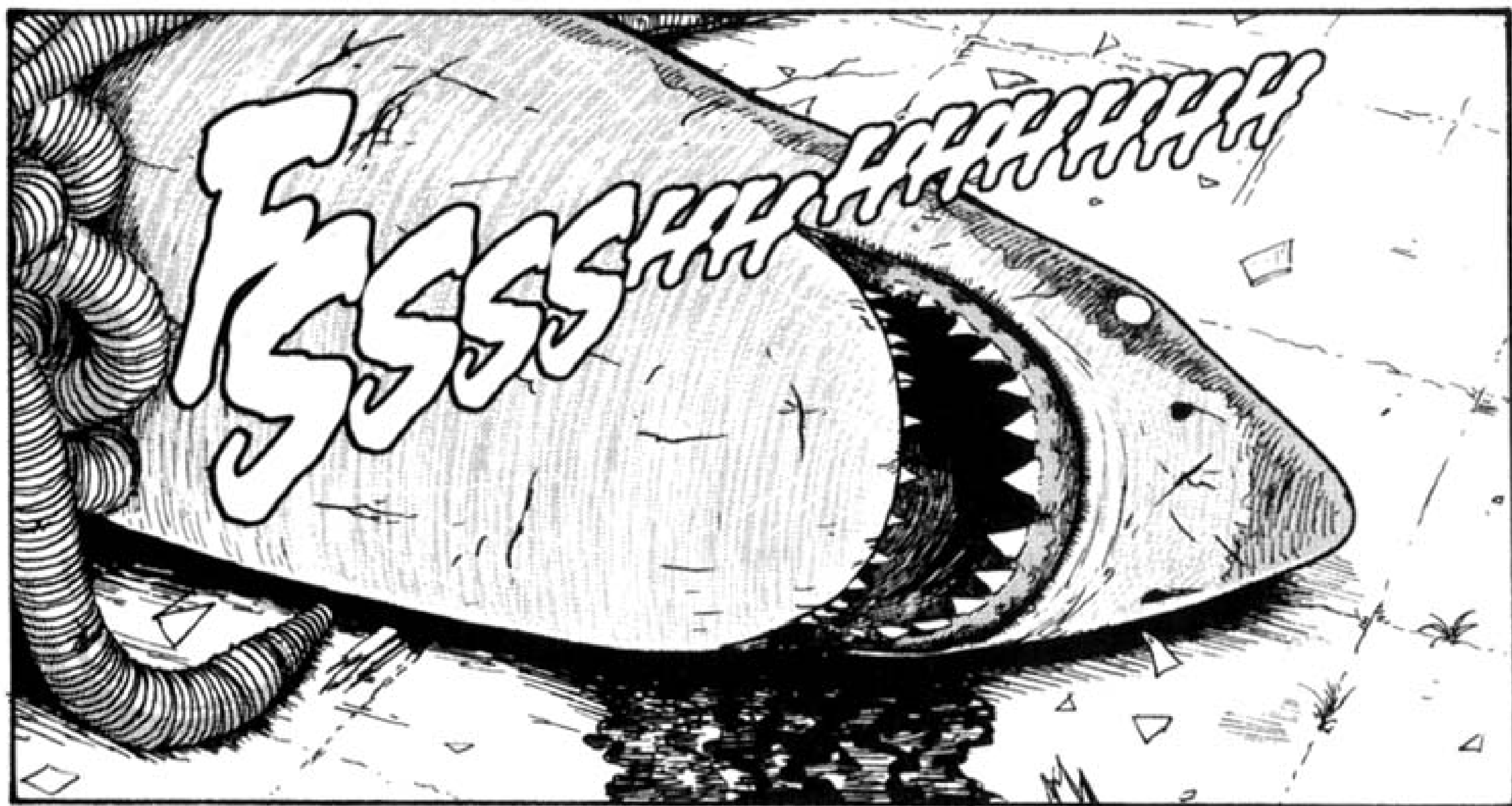




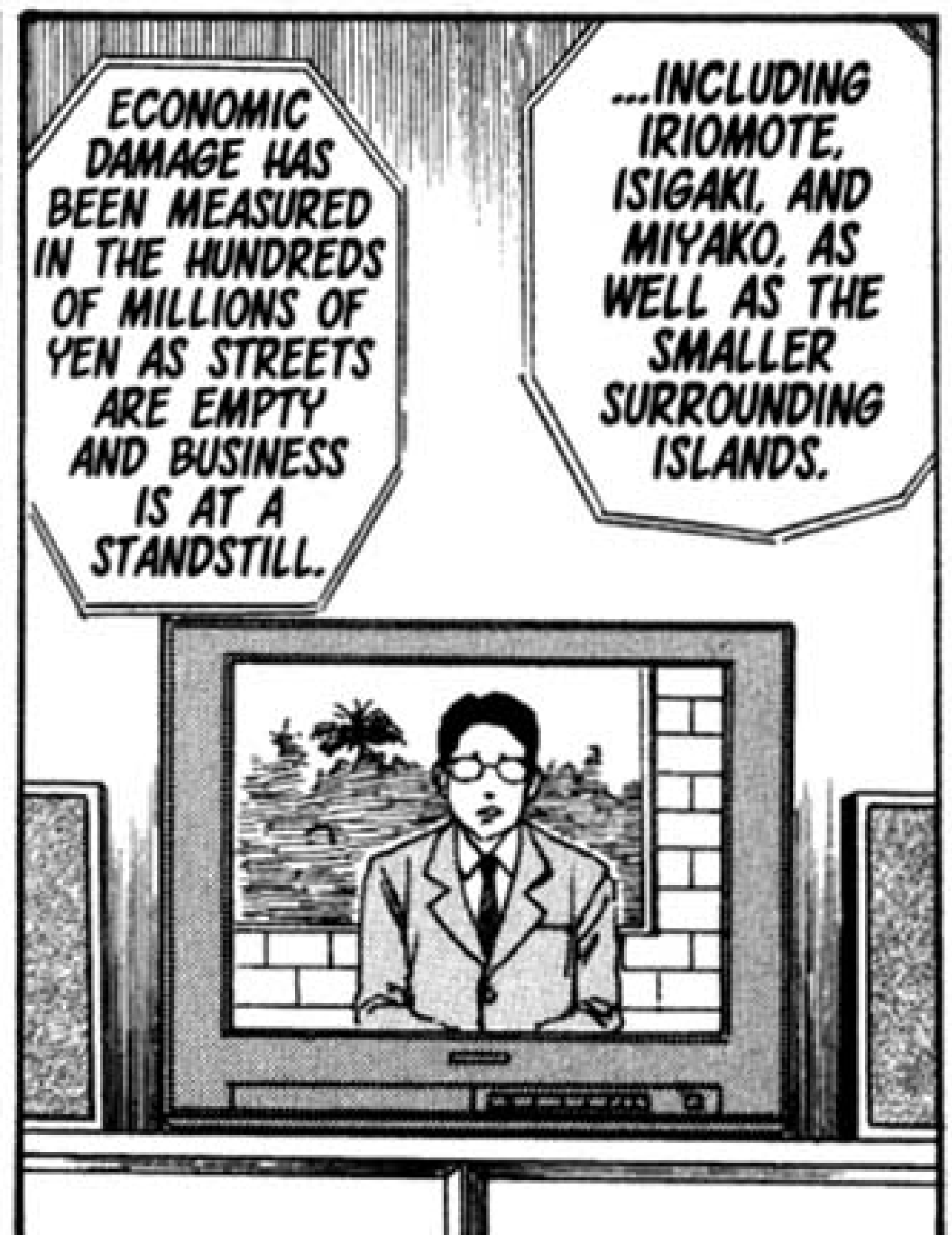
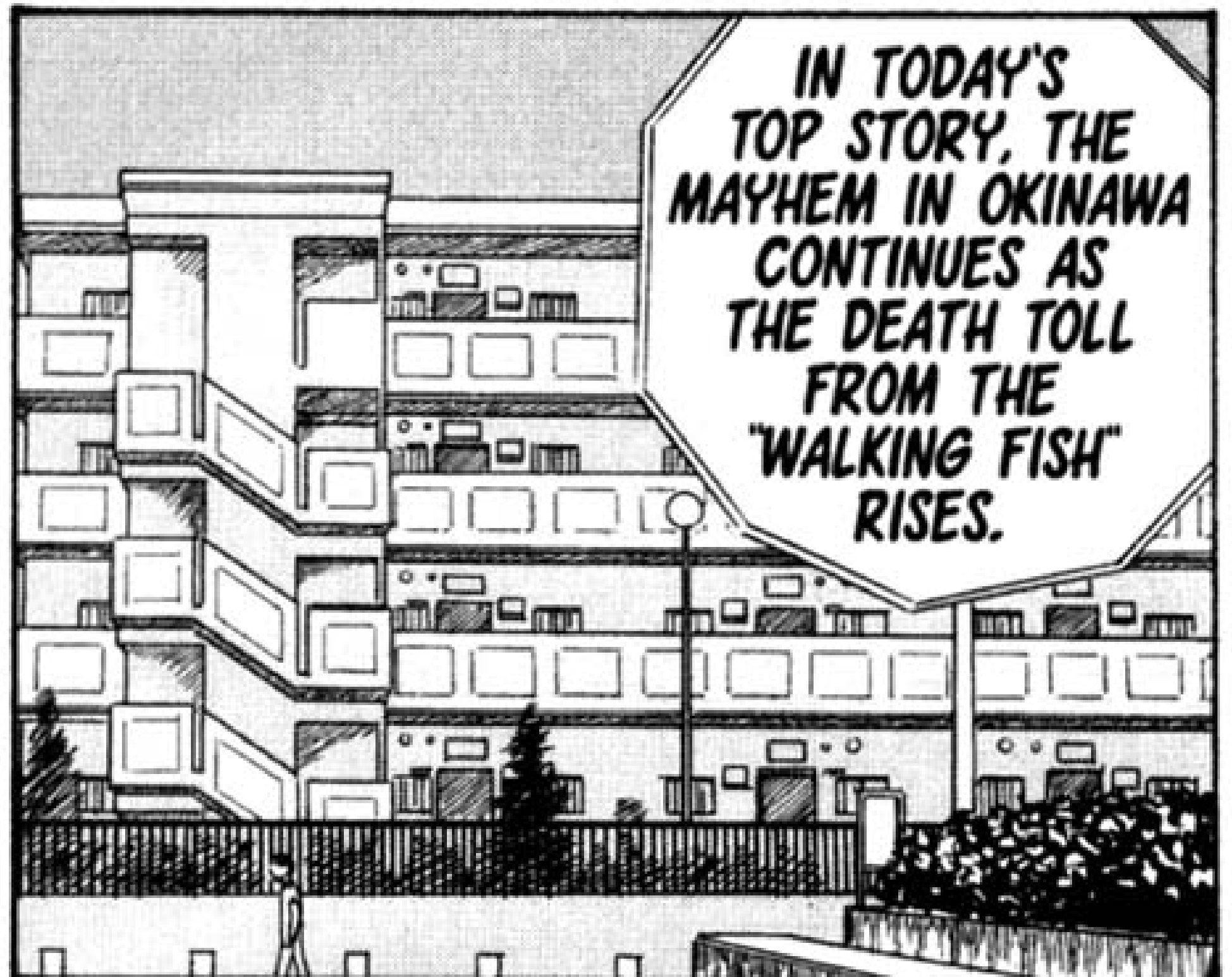
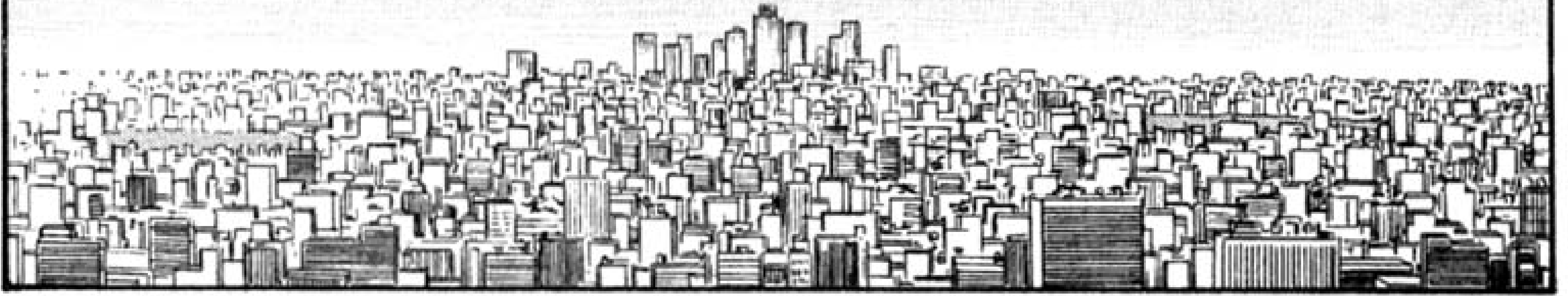




Flight



TOKYO.





...BUT  
THEY DON'T  
EVEN REACT!  
THEY'RE  
MONSTERS!!

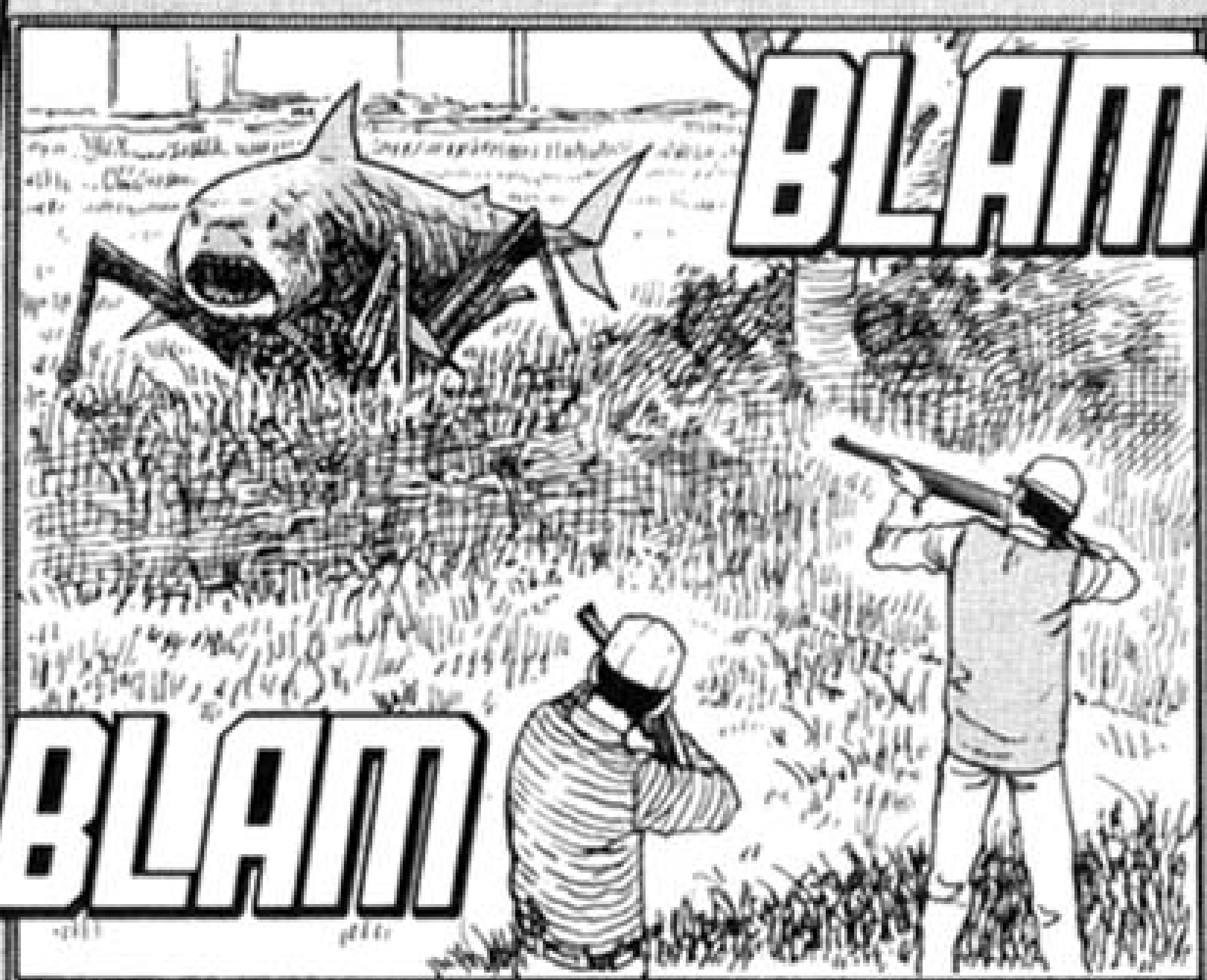
WE  
KEEP ON  
HITTING  
THEM..



YAMANO

**BLAM**

**BLAM**



YAMANO

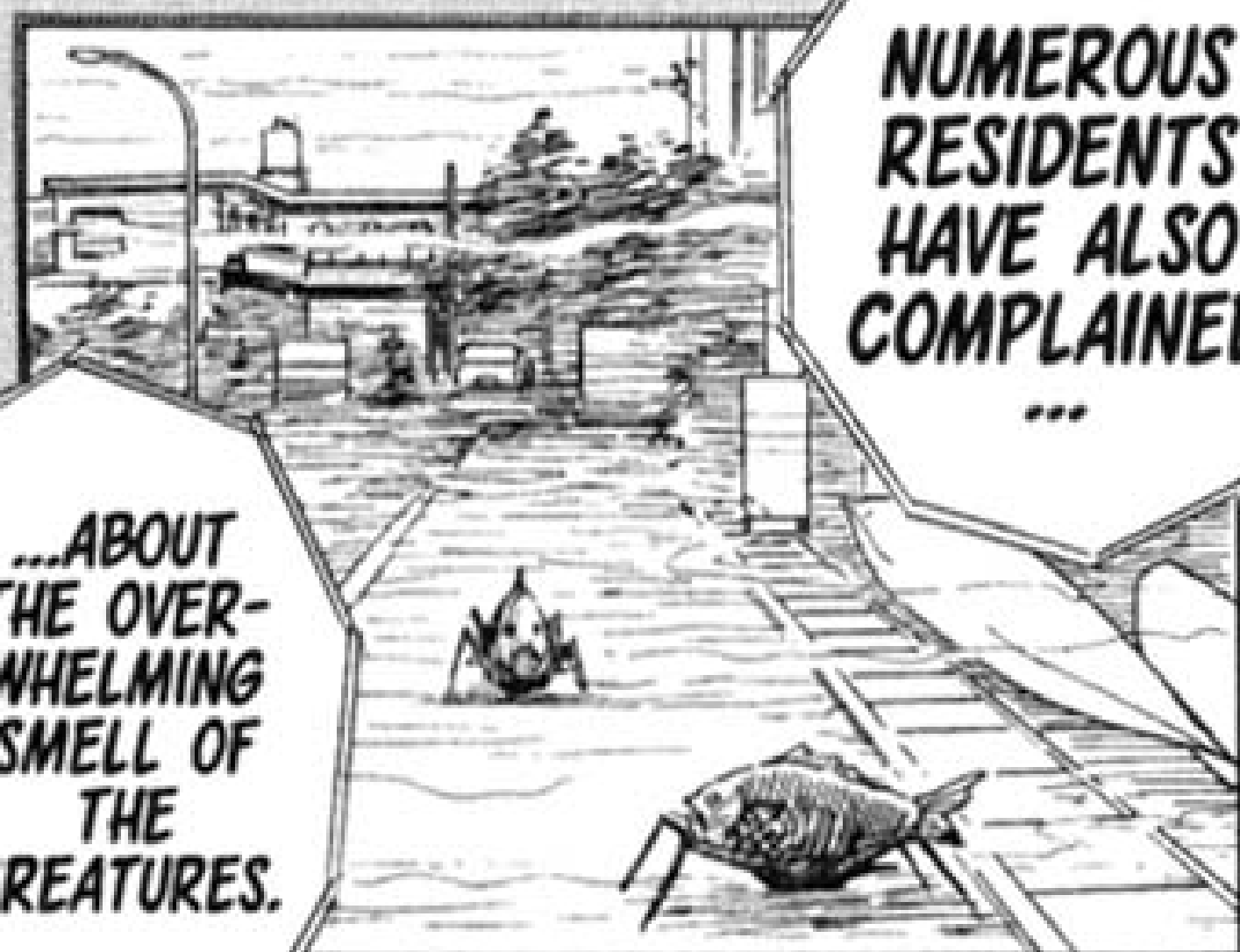
I WISH  
THEY'D HURRY  
UP AND  
TAKE CARE  
OF IT!

IT'S DISGUST-  
ING! IT SMELLS  
LIKE A DEAD  
BODY!



NUMEROUS  
RESIDENTS  
HAVE ALSO  
COMPLAINED  
...

...ABOUT  
THE OVER-  
WHELMING  
SMELL OF  
THE  
CREATURES.



YAMANO

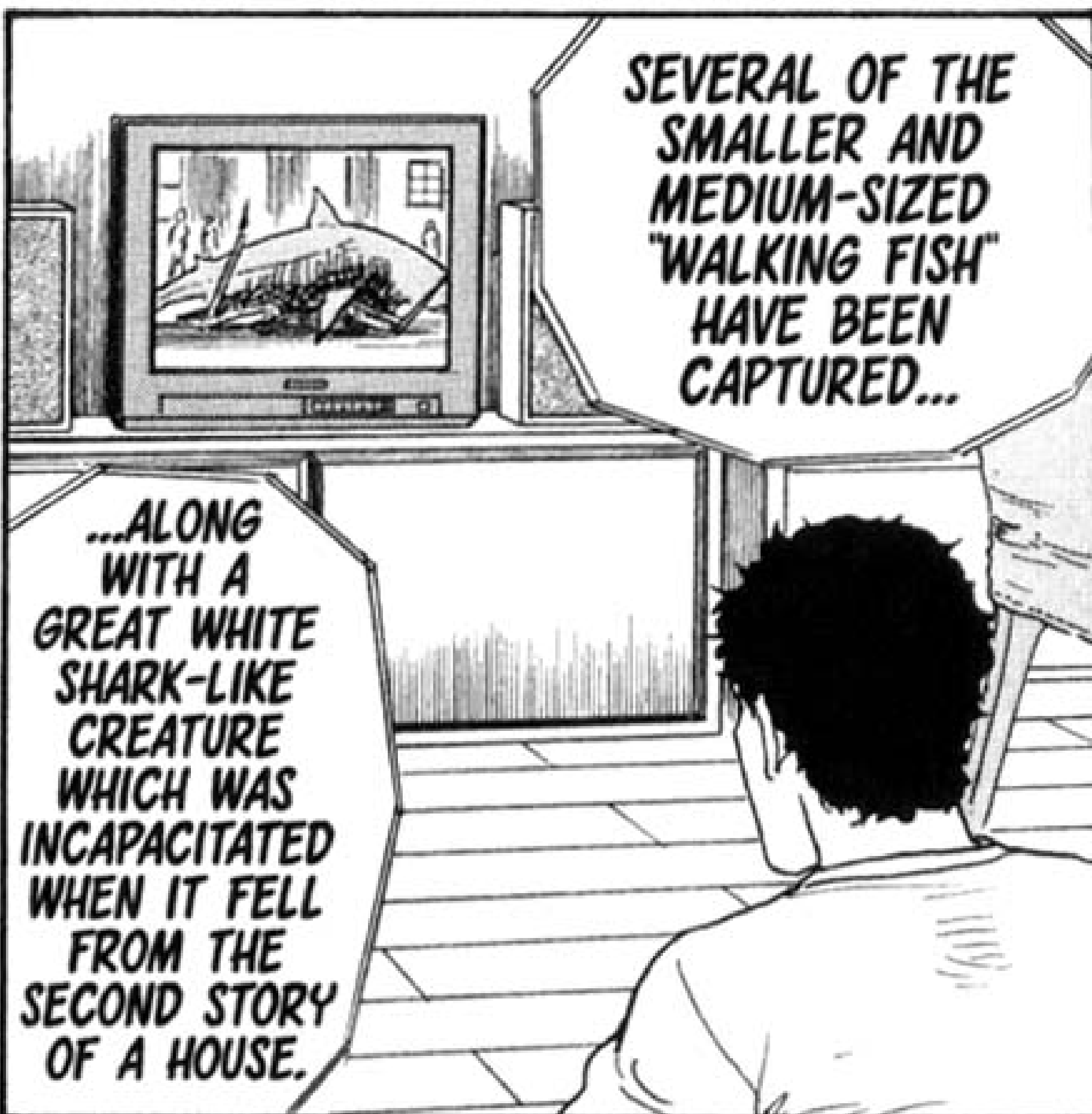
WE'RE  
STILL  
WAITING  
FOR THE  
RESULTS  
OF THE  
ANALYSIS  
...

RESEARCH  
FACILITIES  
AROUND THE  
NATION HAVE  
BEGUN TO  
EXAMINE THE  
CREATURES  
...

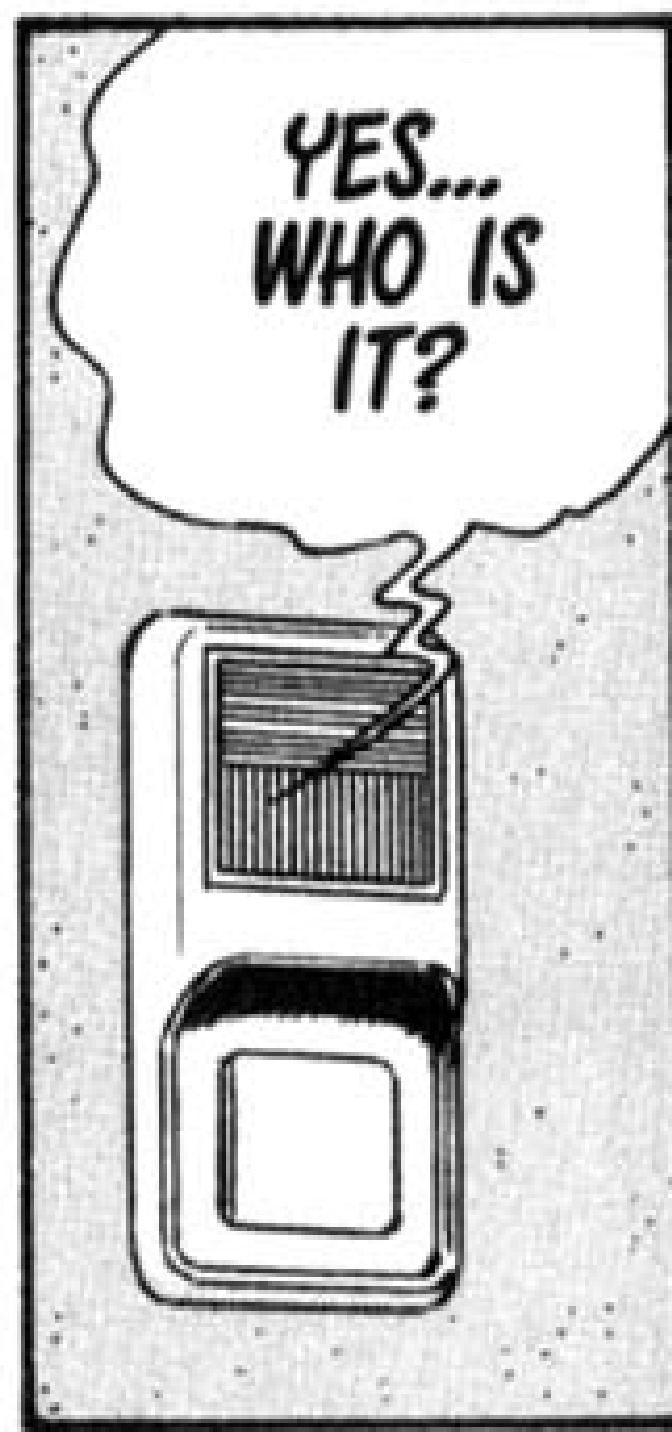
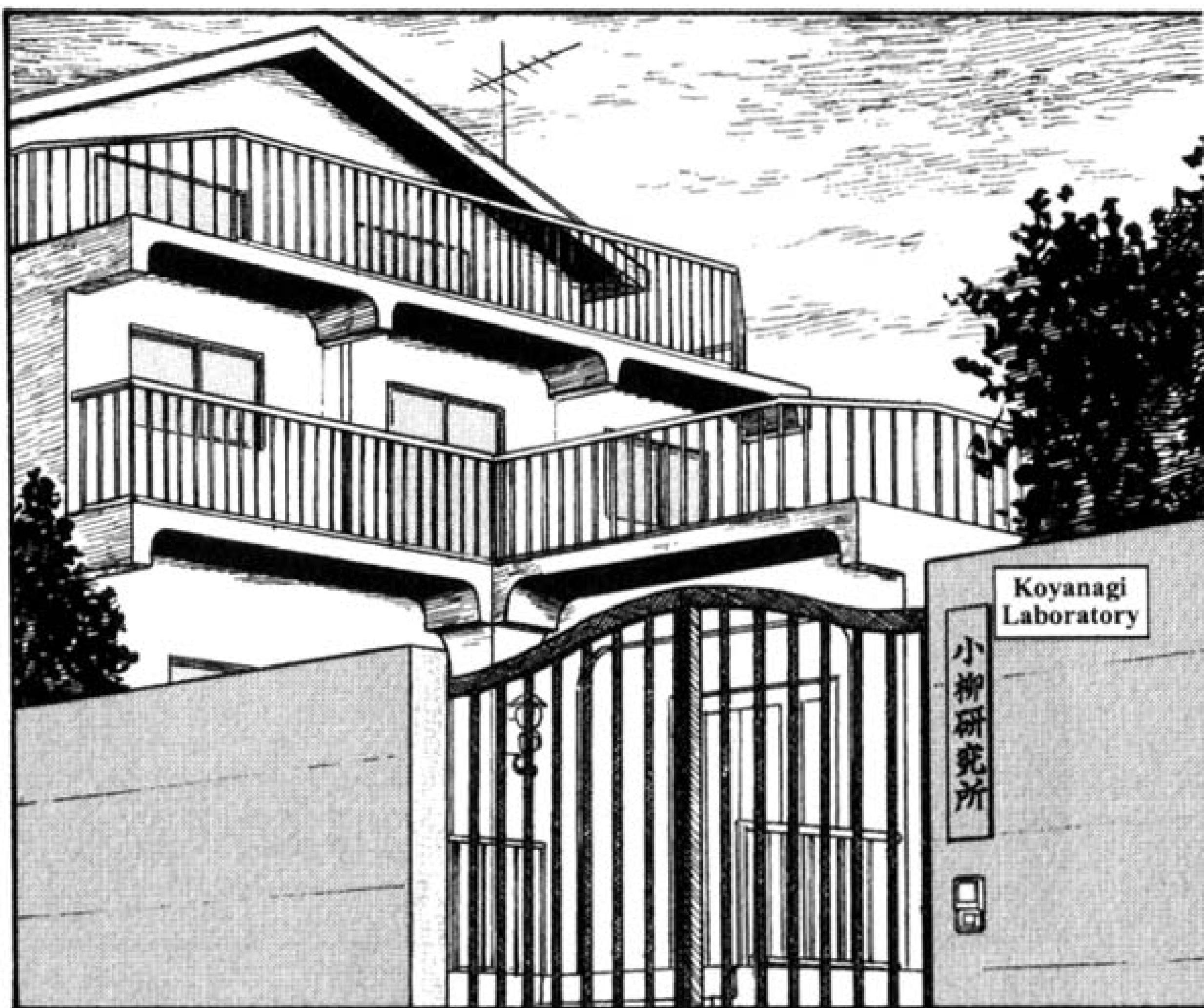


...ALONG  
WITH A  
GREAT WHITE  
SHARK-LIKE  
CREATURE  
WHICH WAS  
INCAPACITATED  
WHEN IT FELL  
FROM THE  
SECOND STORY  
OF A HOUSE.

SEVERAL OF THE  
SMALLER AND  
MEDIUM-SIZED  
"WALKING FISH"  
HAVE BEEN  
CAPTURED...











OH,  
TADASHI...  
GOOD TO  
SEE YOU.



DOCTOR  
KOYA-  
NAGI  
...

YOUR  
NEPHEW  
IS  
HERE.



MY  
DAYS AS  
THE YOUNG,  
GENIUS  
INVENTOR  
ARE LONG  
GONE. YOU  
CAN'T  
FIGHT  
AGE.

AHH,  
I'M KIND  
OF IN A  
SLUMP. I'VE  
BEEN  
SHORT ON  
IDEAS.



HOW'S  
YOUR  
WORK  
GOING  
?

HEY.



BUT  
ANYWAY,  
THAT'S NOT  
IMPORTANT.

HA HA...IT  
WASN'T SO  
GREAT. KAORI  
GOT KIND  
OF UPSET.



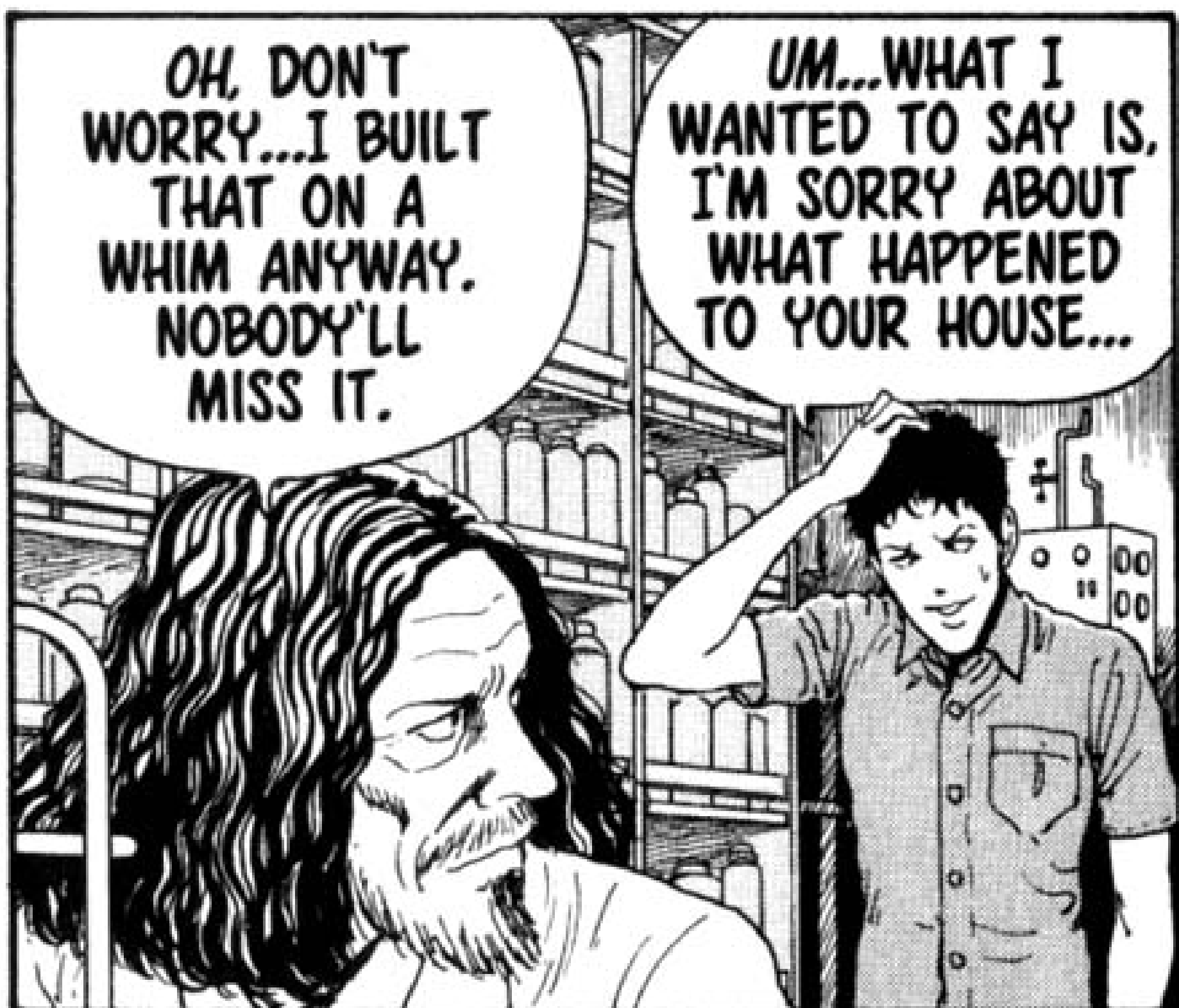
WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?

HOW  
WAS YOUR  
TRIP TO  
OKINAWA  
WITH YOUR  
GIRL-  
FRIEND?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THE HOUSE WAS DESTROYED BY SHARKS?"

YOU SAID SOMETHING STRANGE IN YOUR MESSAGE, THOUGH.



OH, DON'T WORRY...I BUILT THAT ON A WHIM ANYWAY. NOBODY'LL MISS IT.

UM...WHAT I WANTED TO SAY IS, I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOUSE...



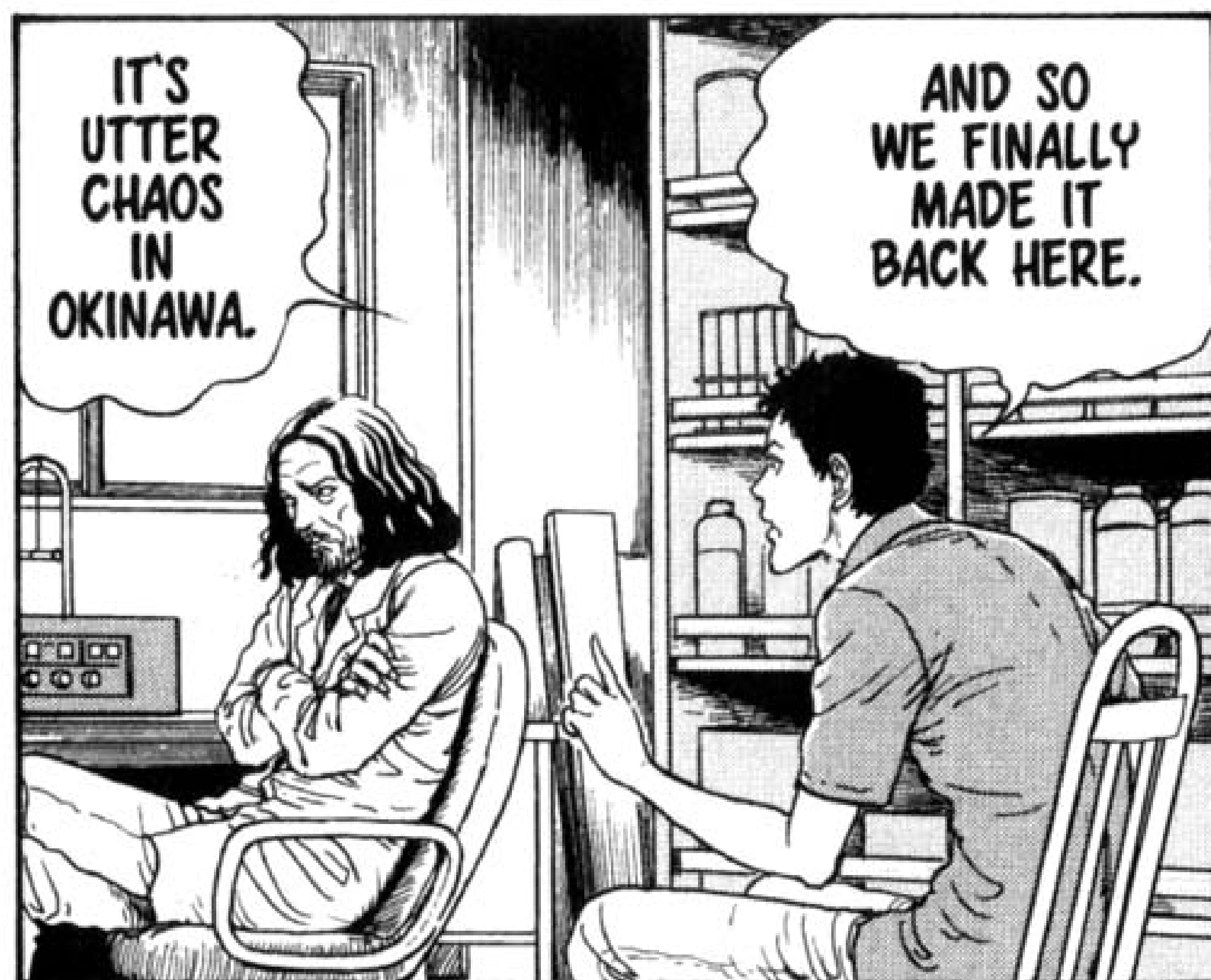
WHAT'S GOING ON?

NEWS? NO, I DON'T WATCH TV.



WHAT!? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WATCHING THE NEWS?

CARE TO EXPLAIN?



IT'S UTTER CHAOS IN OKINAWA.

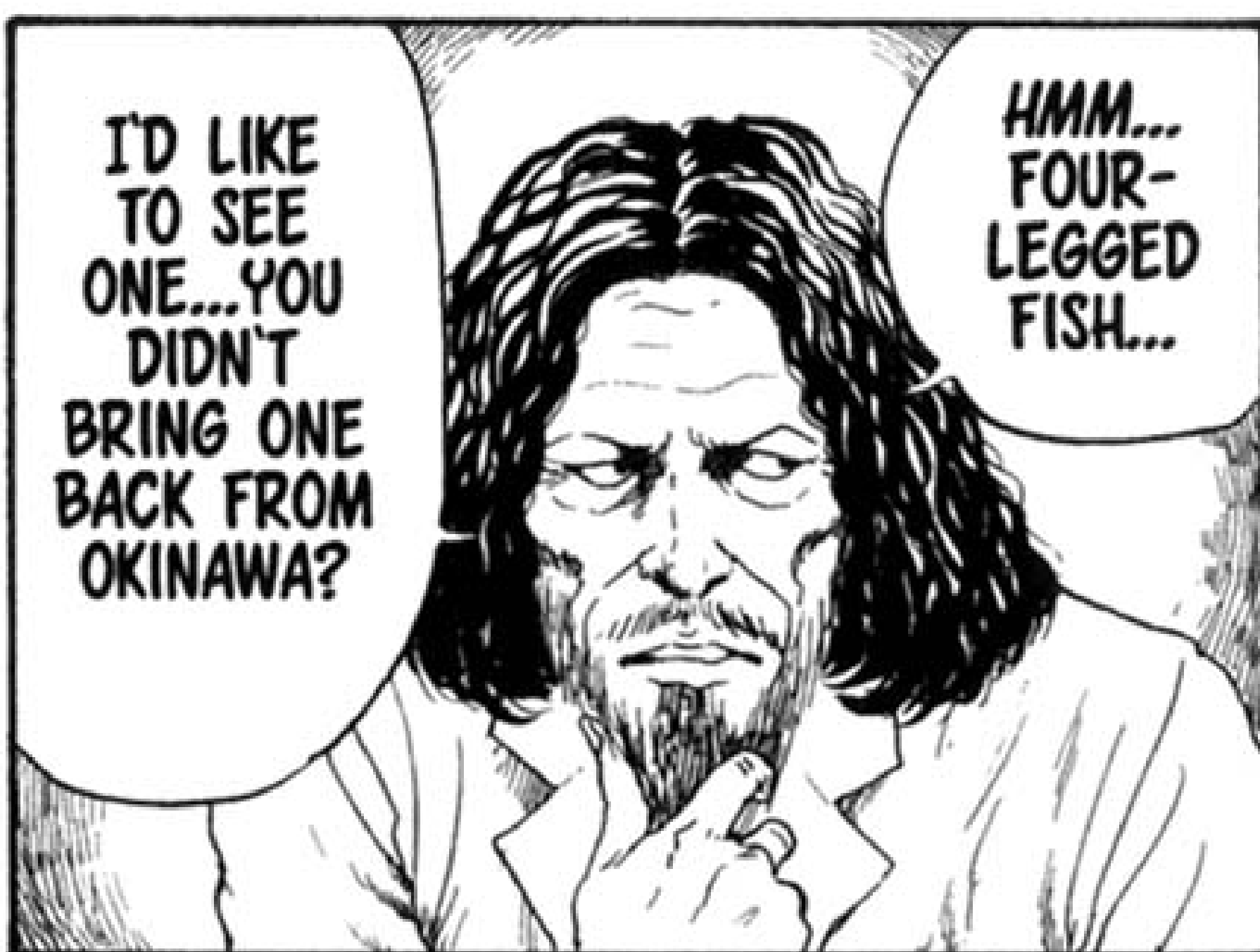
AND SO WE FINALLY MADE IT BACK HERE.





I  
COULDN'T  
BRING  
SOMETHING  
SO  
DISGUSTING!  
IF YOU  
SAW ONE  
UP CLOSE  
YOU'D  
KNOW WHAT  
I MEAN.

YOU  
MUST  
BE  
KIDDING  
!



I'D LIKE  
TO SEE  
ONE...YOU  
DIDN'T  
BRING ONE  
BACK FROM  
OKINAWA?

HMM...  
FOUR-  
LEGGED  
FISH...



YES,  
SIR.

MISS YOSHIYAMA,  
I WANT YOU TO  
BOOK ME A FLIGHT  
TO OKINAWA  
IMMEDIATELY.

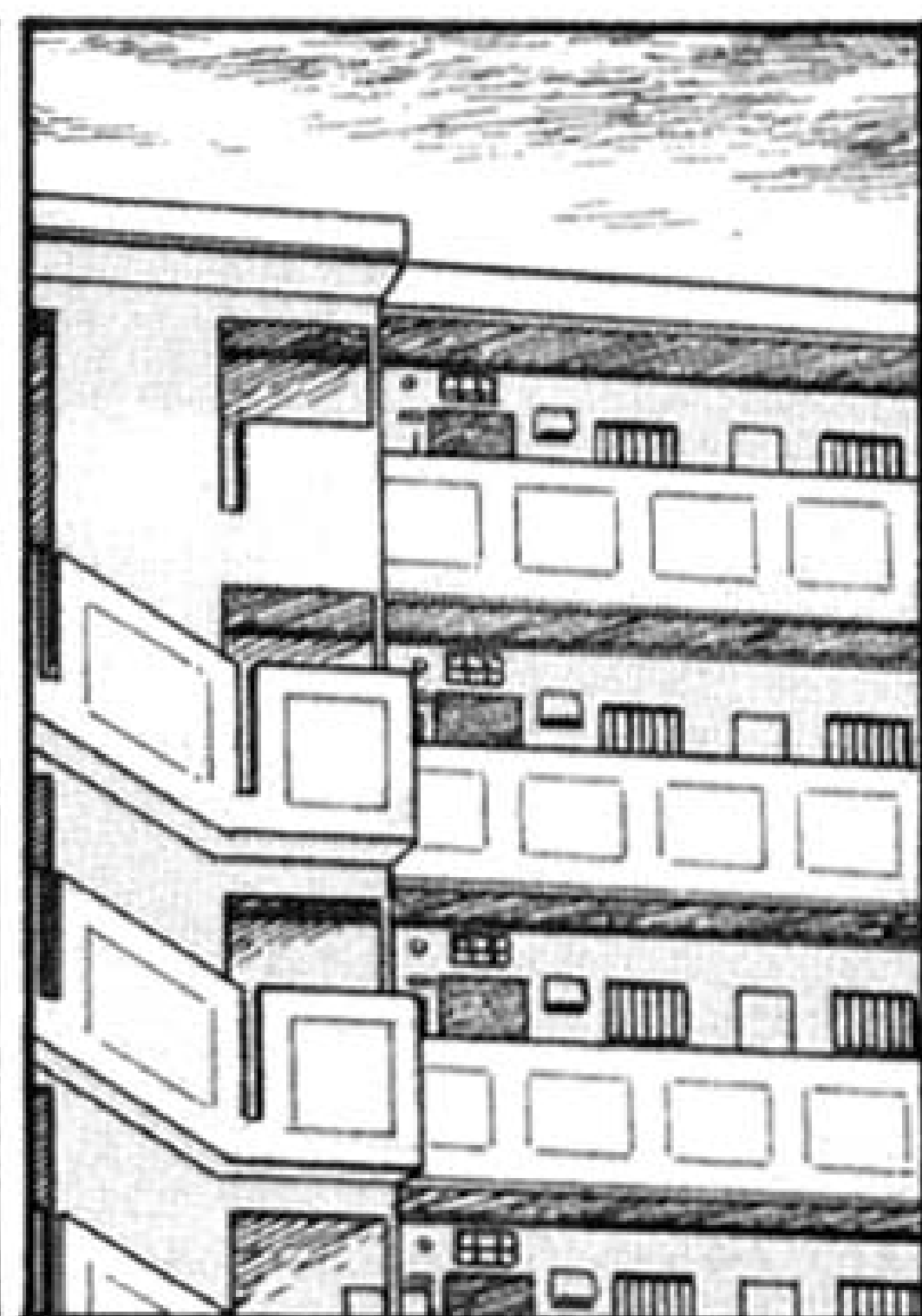


HMM  
...



FISH  
WITH LEGS,  
HUH...?



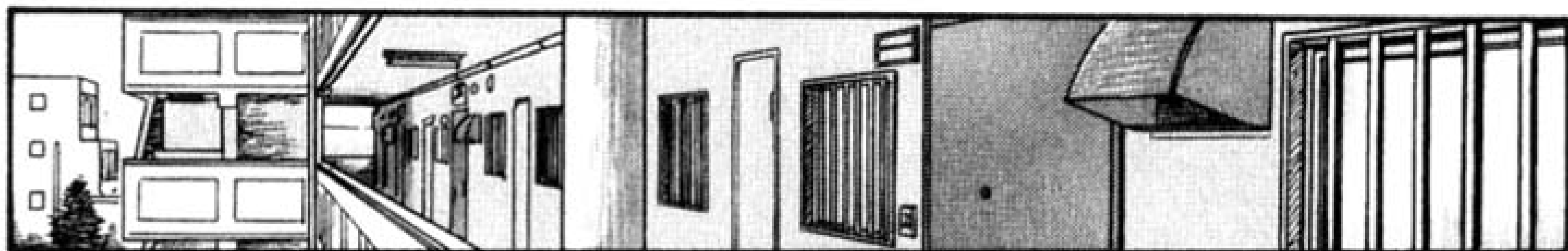


**I'M NOT  
CRAZY!  
WHY  
WON'T  
YOU  
LISTEN  
TO ME?**

**LOOK,  
KAORI...YOU  
HAD A SCARY  
EXPERIENCE  
SO YOU CAN'T  
GET RID OF  
YOUR MEMORY  
OF THAT  
SMELL.**

**EVEN  
NOW...IT'S  
COMING  
CLOSER...**

**IT'S  
GETTING  
STRONGER  
AND  
STRONGER!!**



**I  
CAN  
SMELL  
IT...**

**I  
CAN  
SMELL  
...**



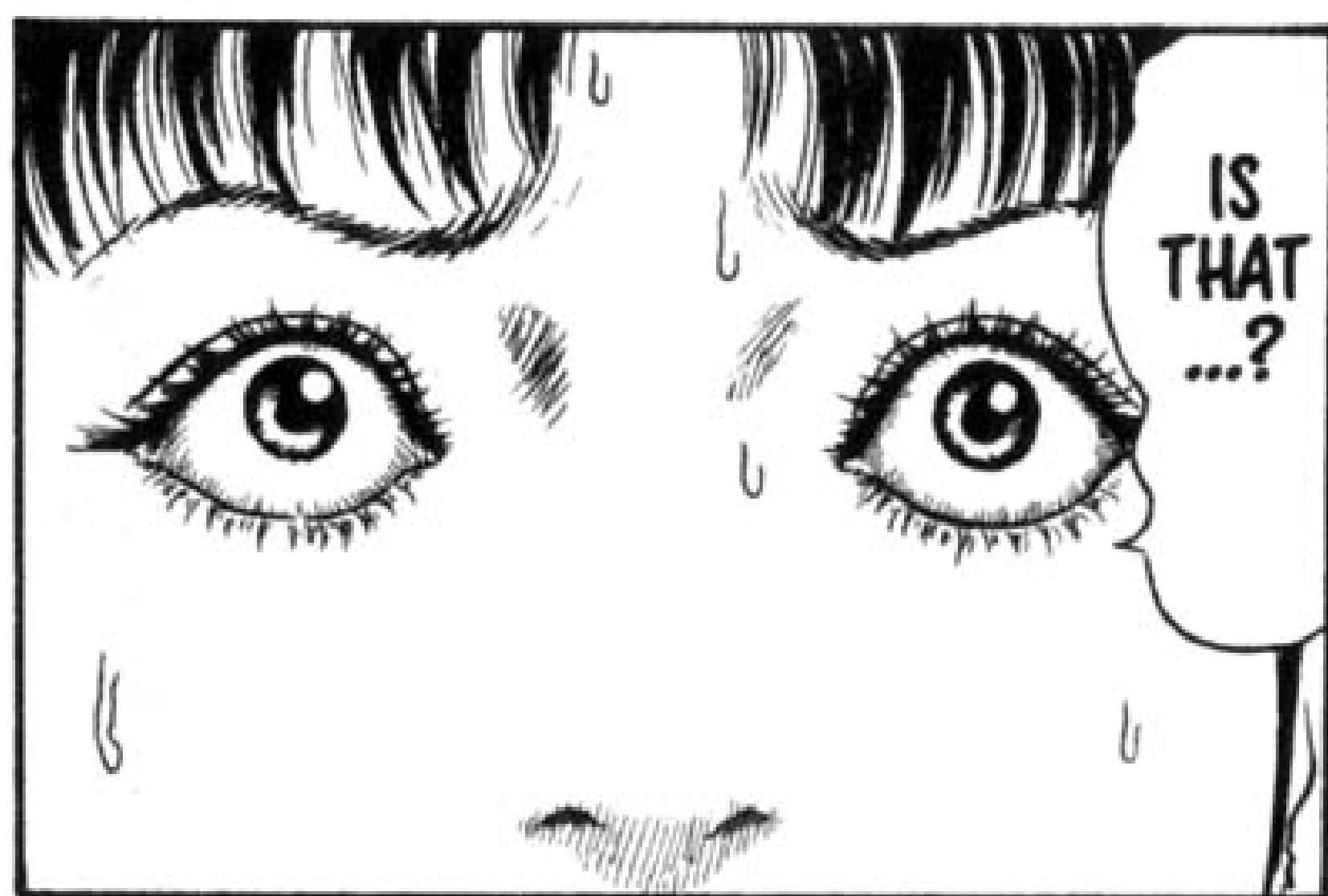
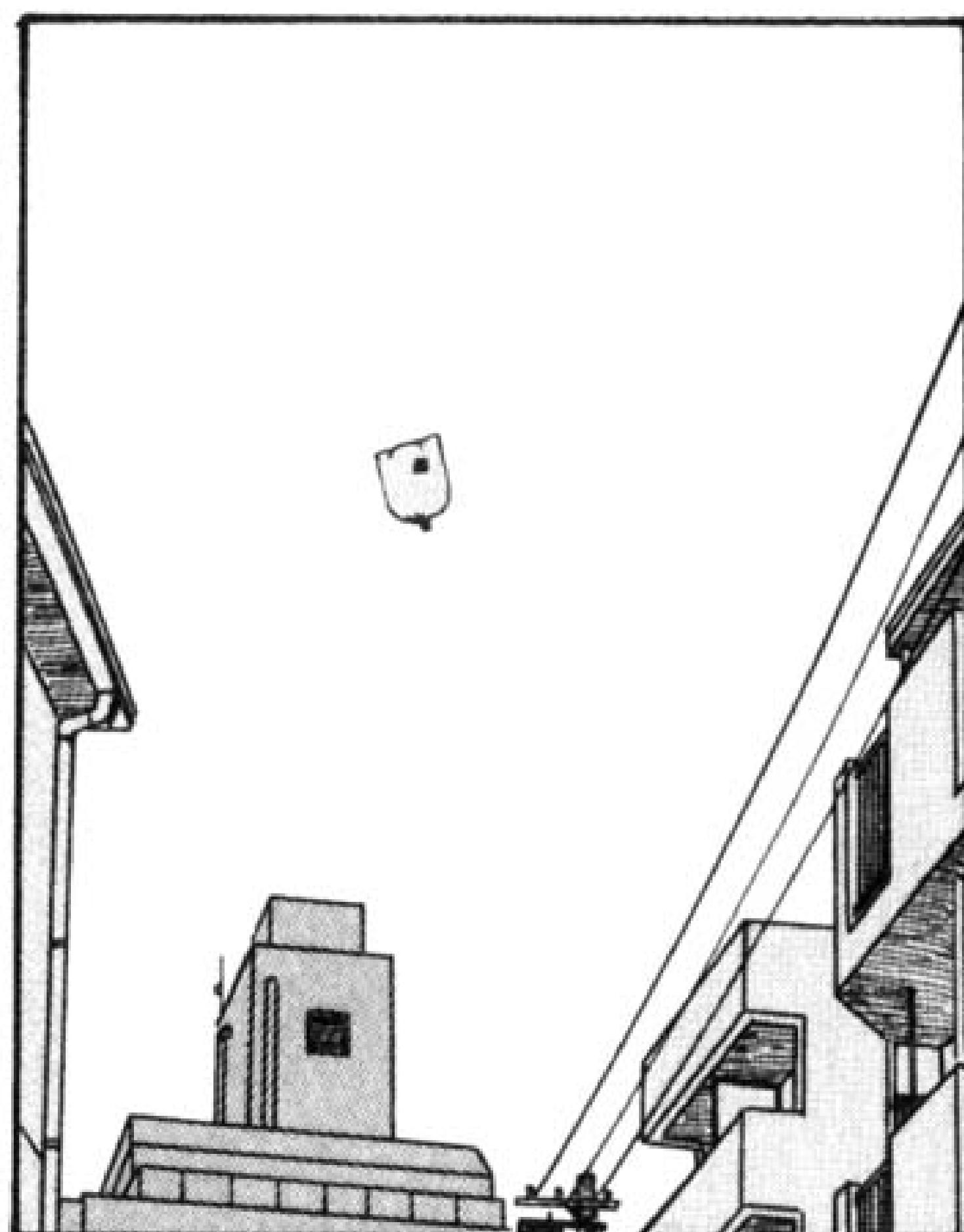
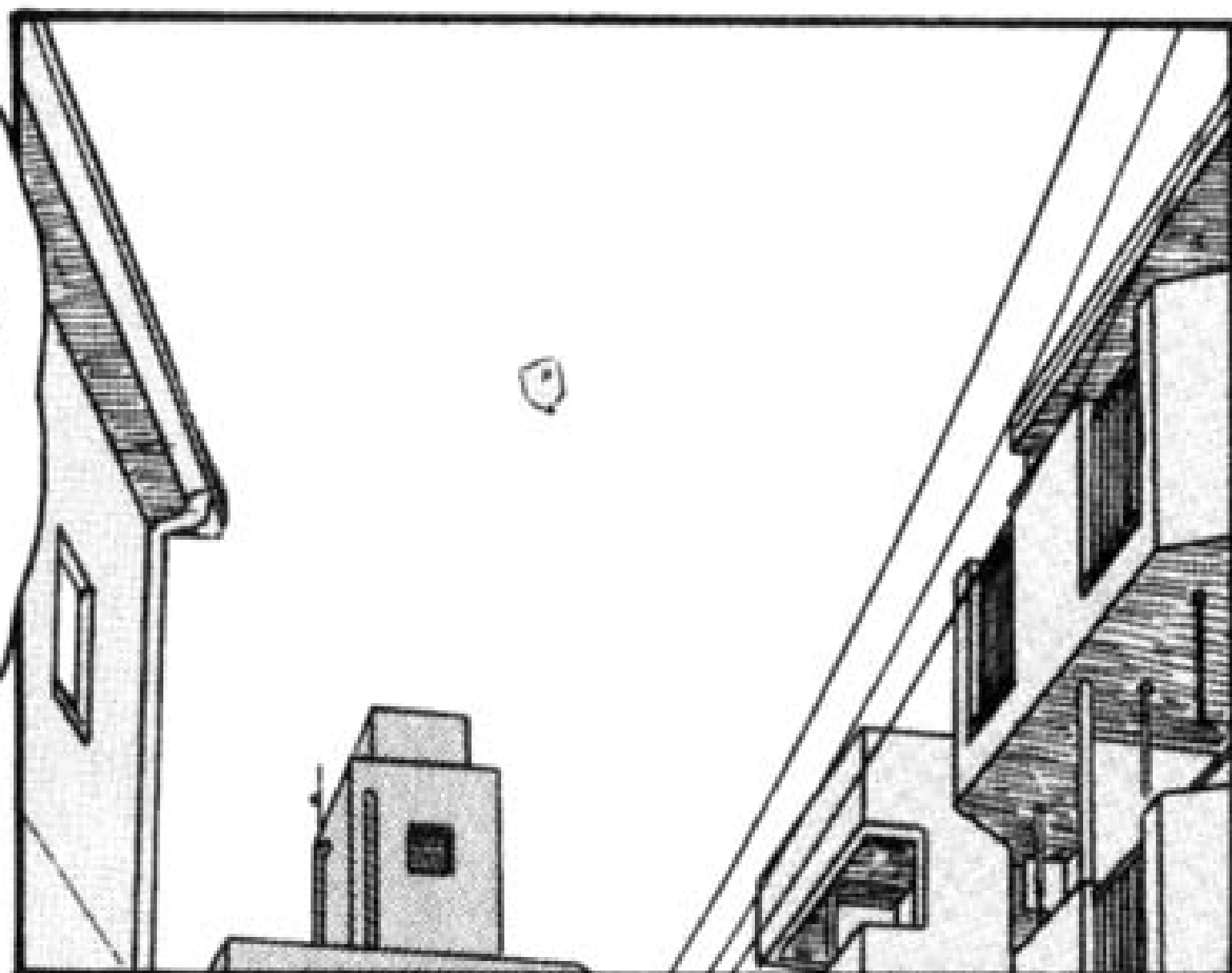
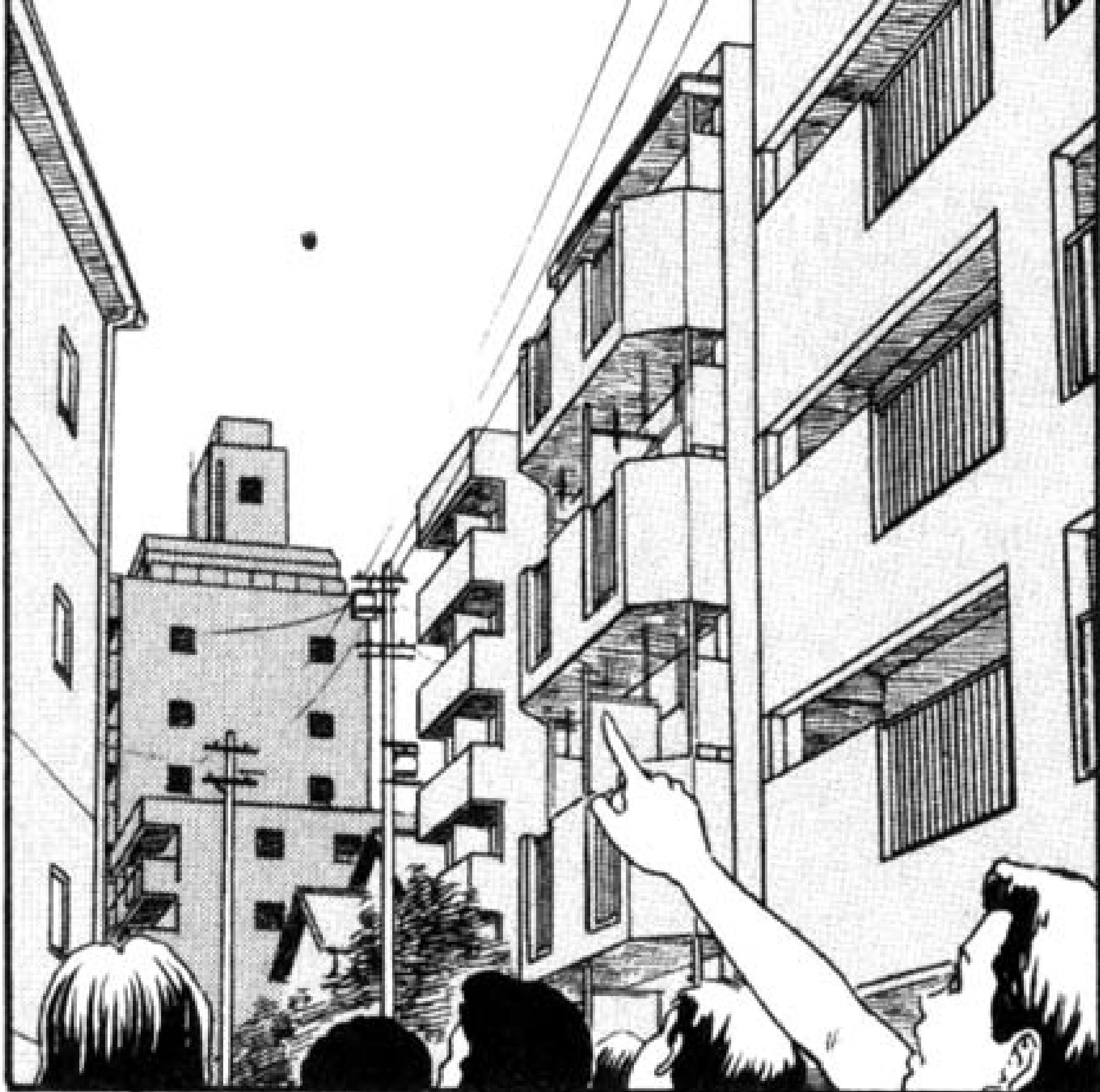
**DO  
YOU  
WANT  
A CUP  
OF  
COFFEE  
?**

**HEY.**







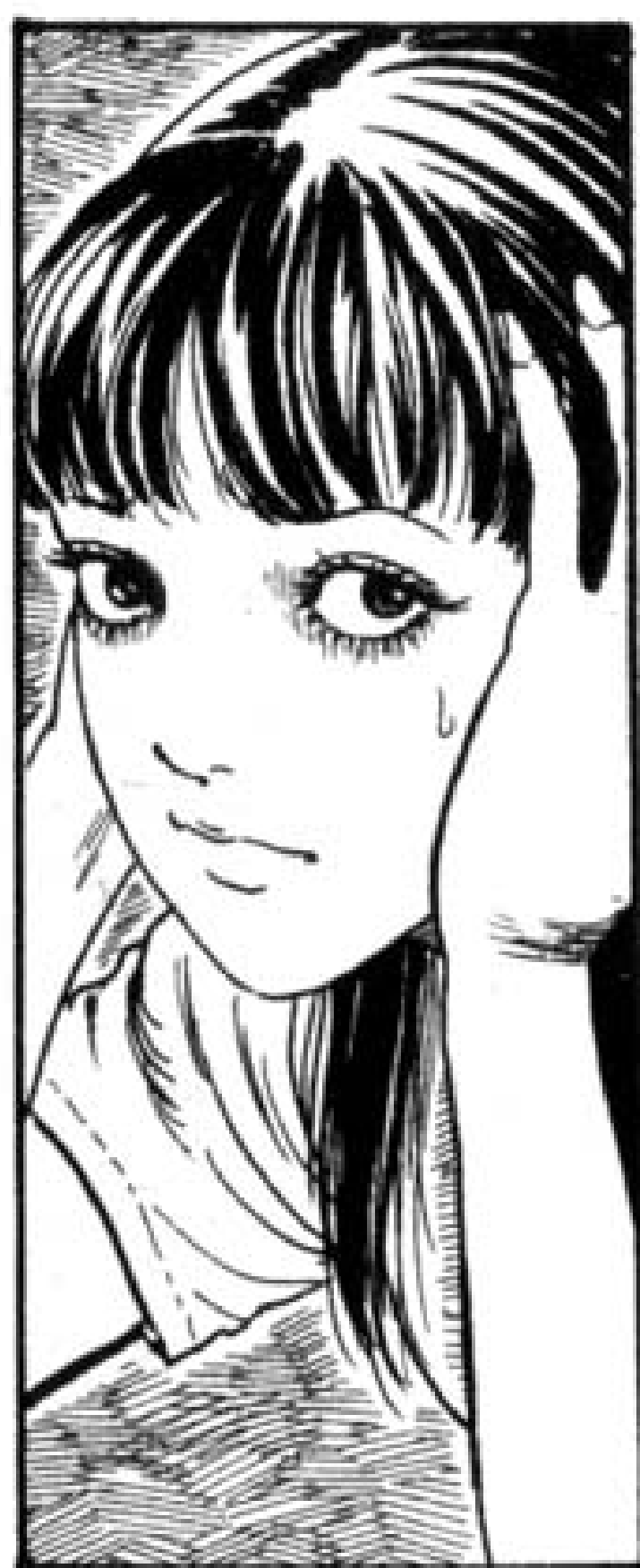


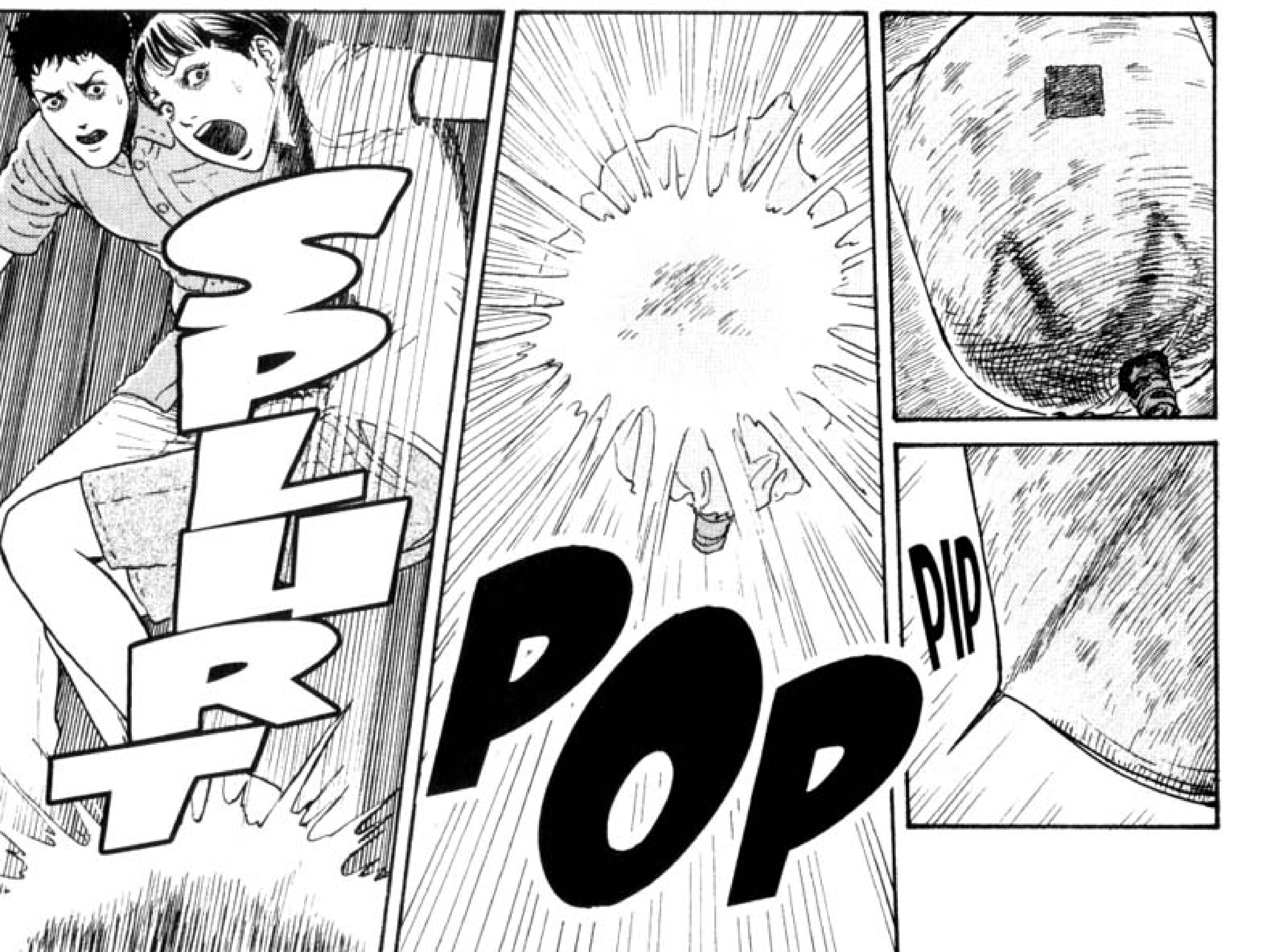


FSSHHHH













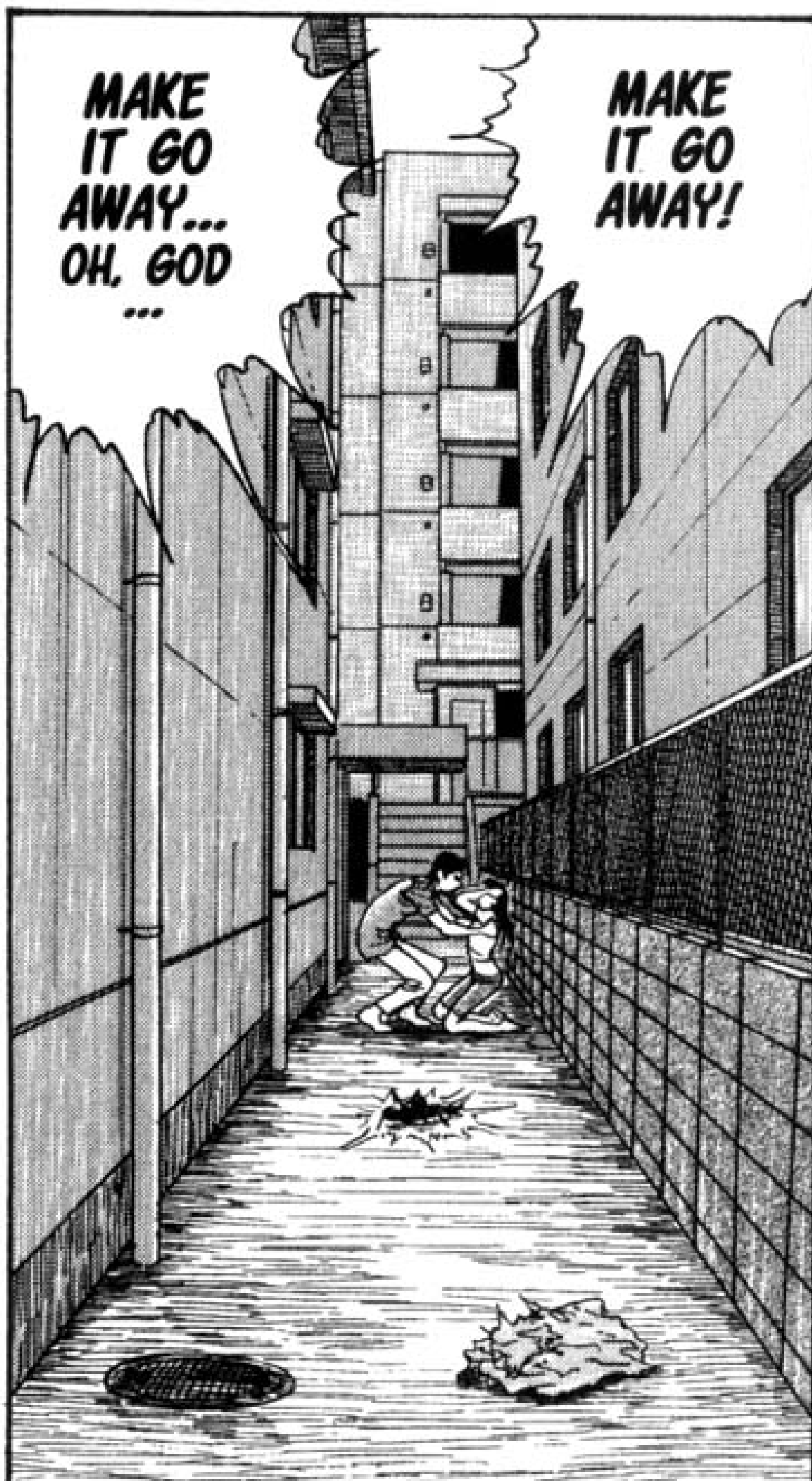
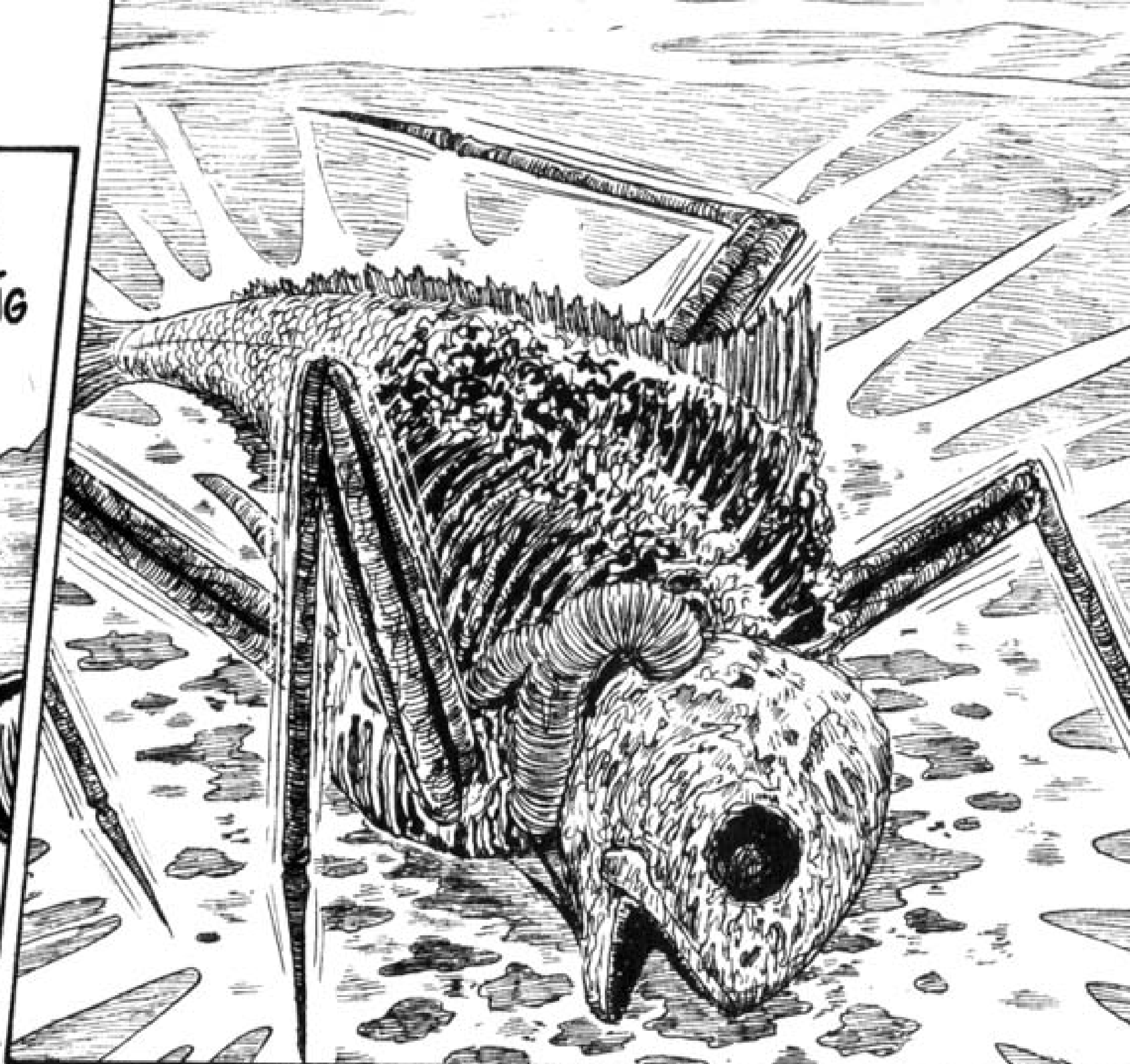
6 / *The Death-  
Stench Creeps*





WHAT  
IS IT?  
IS IT  
REALLY  
A FISH  
?

IT'S  
STILL  
MOVING  
...



MAKE  
IT GO  
AWAY...  
OH, GOD  
...

MAKE  
IT GO  
AWAY!

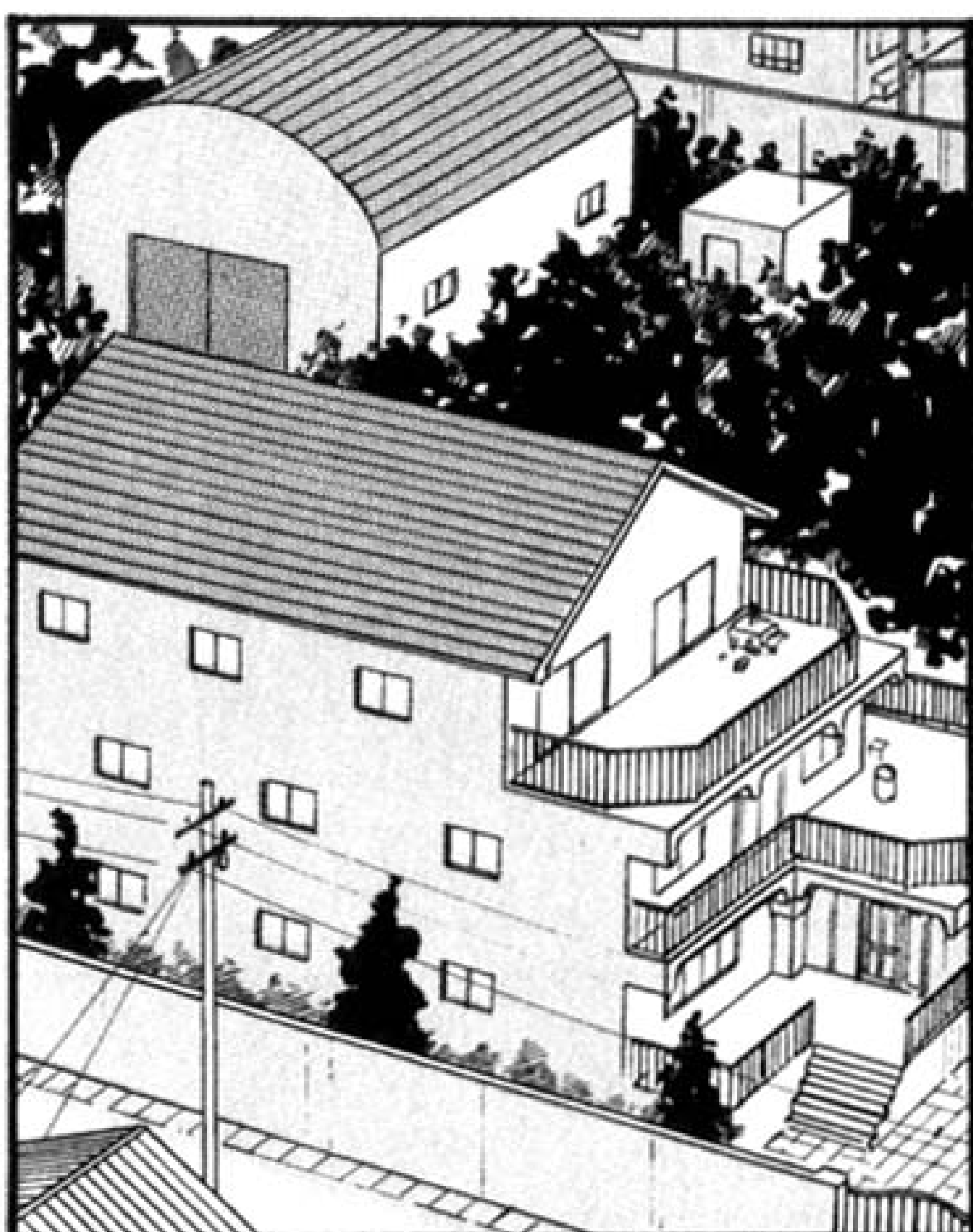


I-IT  
CAME  
AFTER  
US...



NO, IT  
WASN'T!  
OH...THIS  
SMELL. DO  
SOMETHING  
!!

N-NO...  
IT WAS  
JUST  
RANDOM  
...







WHAT'S THAT !?



THE BAG INFLATES AS SOON AS IT'S INSIDE.

YES...THAT'S WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT IT.



ITS ODOR IS STILL LEAKING THROUGH.

...BUT IT STILL STINKS.



IT'S NOT AS TIGHT NOW...

IN OKINAWA IT BLEW UP EVEN TIGHTER UNTIL IT FLOATED UP IN THE AIR.



**FWONNNN**



...HM.



**SNIP**



UCK  
...



UGH!



WELL, YOU  
WEREN'T  
KIDDING  
ABOUT  
THE  
SMELL...



HM?  
OH...

WHAT  
IS IT,  
UNCLE?



HAVE  
YOU EVER  
SMELLED  
A  
HUMAN  
CORPSE?

TADASHI  
...



THE  
SAME  
ODOR  
?

WHAT  
?



I  
ENCOUN-  
TERED  
THIS  
ODOR  
ONCE  
IN THE  
PAST...

...



IT WAS MY FATHER.

IN FACT ...



YES... I HAVE.

HAVE YOU?



UH... NO, I HAVEN'T ...



HE WAS SUCH A WORK-AHOLIC HE HARDLY EVER CAME HOME.

SEVERAL DECADES AGO, MY FATHER HAD A PRIVATE WORK-ROOM...SORT OF A FACTORY.



...



...I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THE CONTENTS OF THIS BAG.

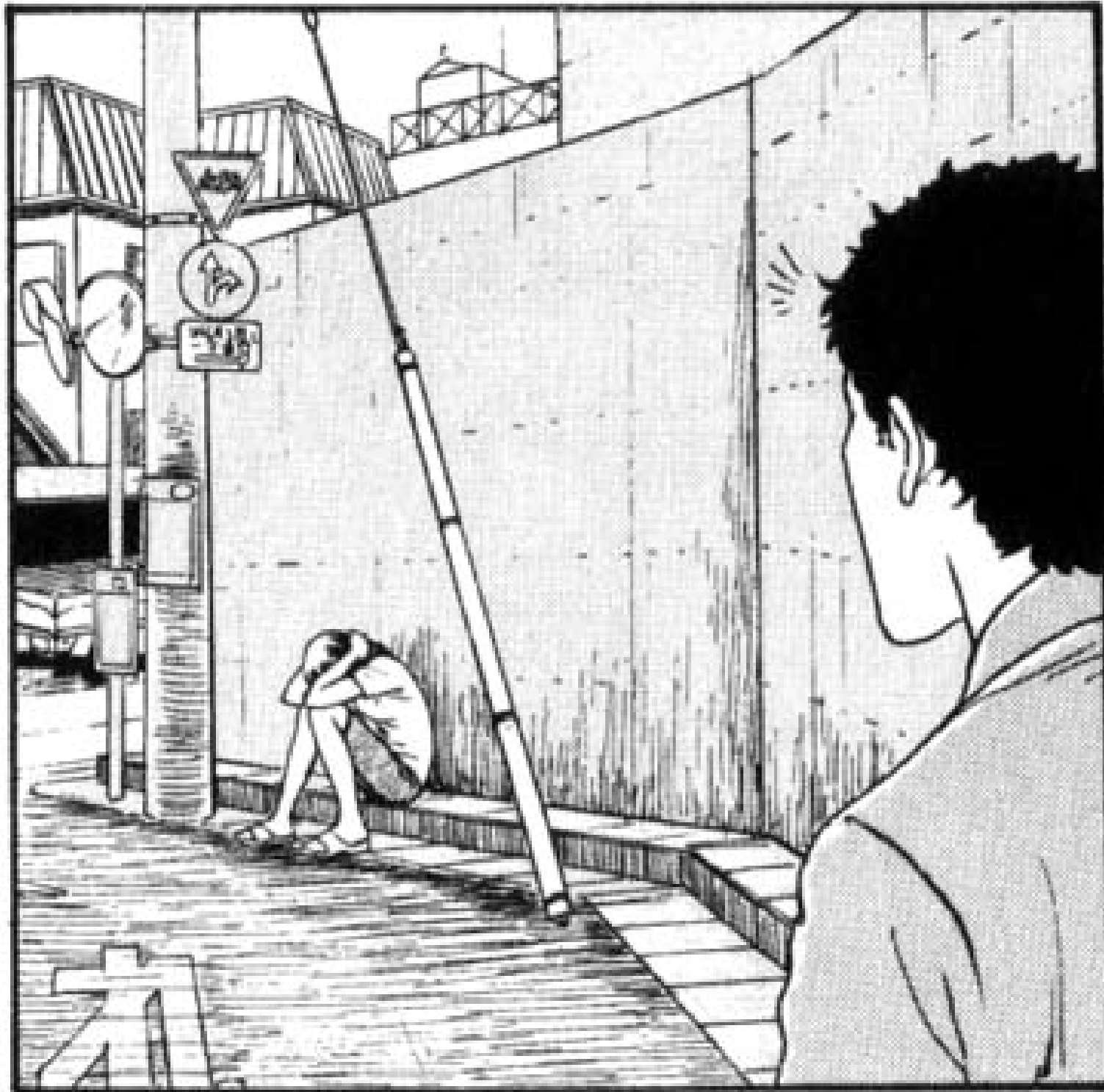
I'M SORRY... NEVER MIND ALL THAT...



IT HAPPENED DURING A HOT SUMMER.

HE WAS AT THE FACTORY WHEN HE DIED OF A HEART ATTACK, SO HE WASN'T DISCOVERED FOR A WHILE.





**FIND  
THEM  
NOW!**



**AND  
GET  
RID OF  
THEM!!**

**DON'T  
YOU GET  
IT?!  
THEY'RE  
ALREADY  
HERE!**



**NO!!  
I KNOW  
THEY'RE  
ALL  
AROUND  
US!**

**MY DE-  
LUSIONS...  
"MY DE-  
LUSIONS"...  
ALWAYS  
PATRON-  
IZING ME  
...**



**I CAN'T  
DEAL  
WITH YOUR  
DELUSIONS!  
THERE IS  
NO SMELL!  
WE'RE  
GOING  
HOME.**



**KAORI...  
ENOUGH!!**

**BEHIND  
THE  
DRAWERS  
...UNDER  
THE  
BED...**



**NO...  
I'M SURE  
THEY'RE  
IN OUR  
ROOM.**



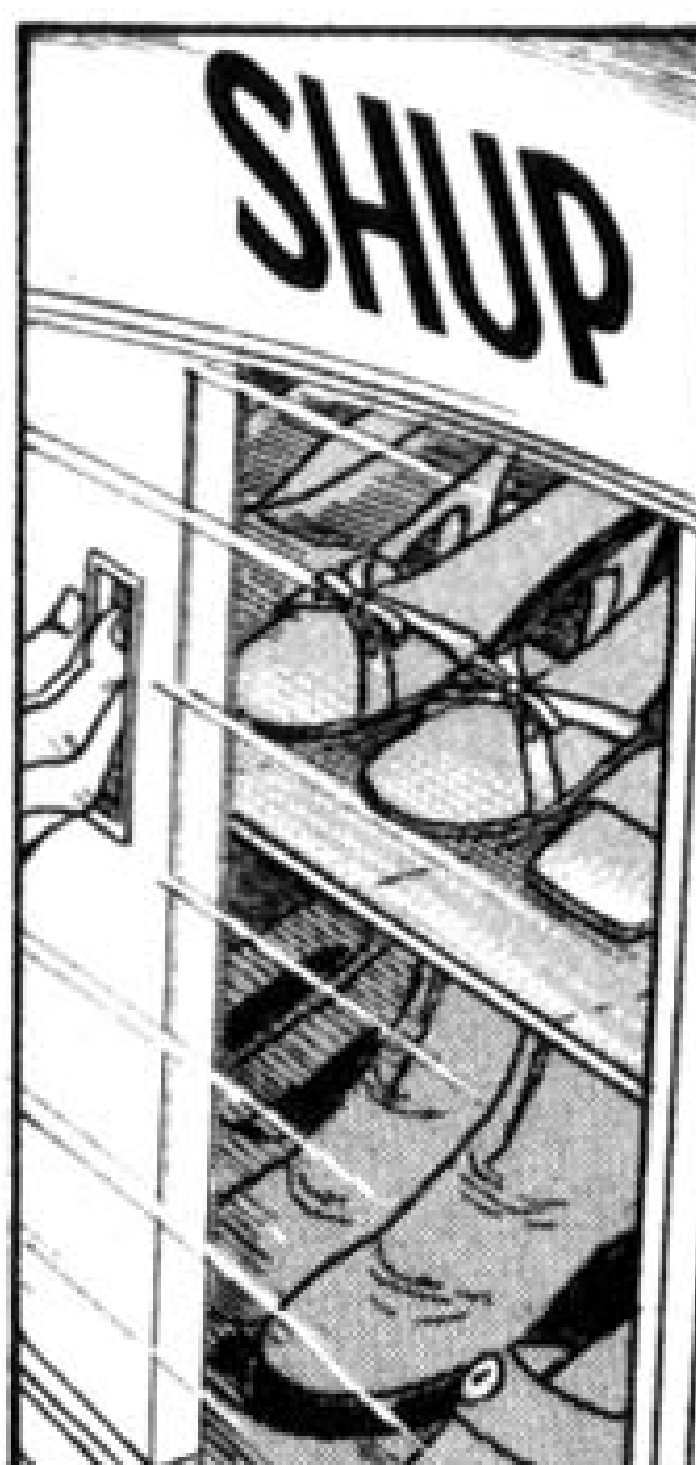
**COME  
ON.**



I'LL  
WATCH  
FROM  
HERE.



ALL  
RIGHT, I'LL  
HAVE A  
LOOK.



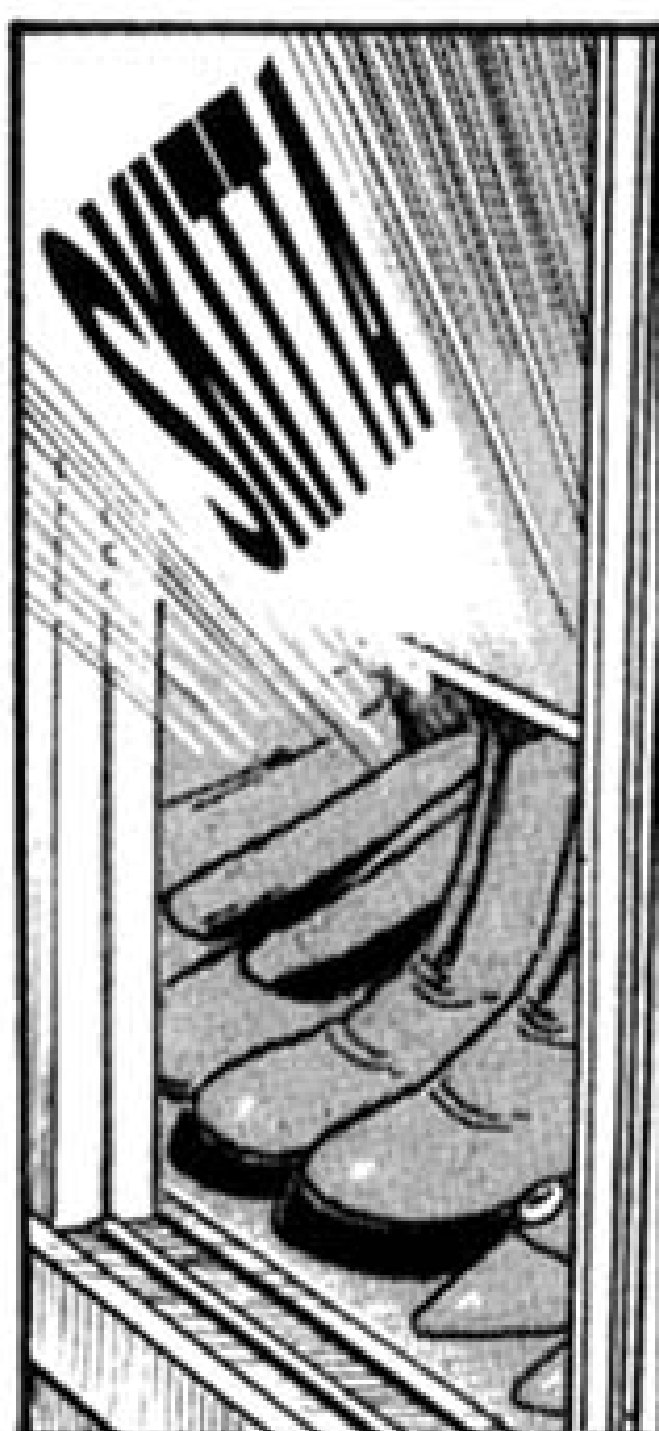
SHUP



FIRST,  
THE SHOE  
CABINET.



!?

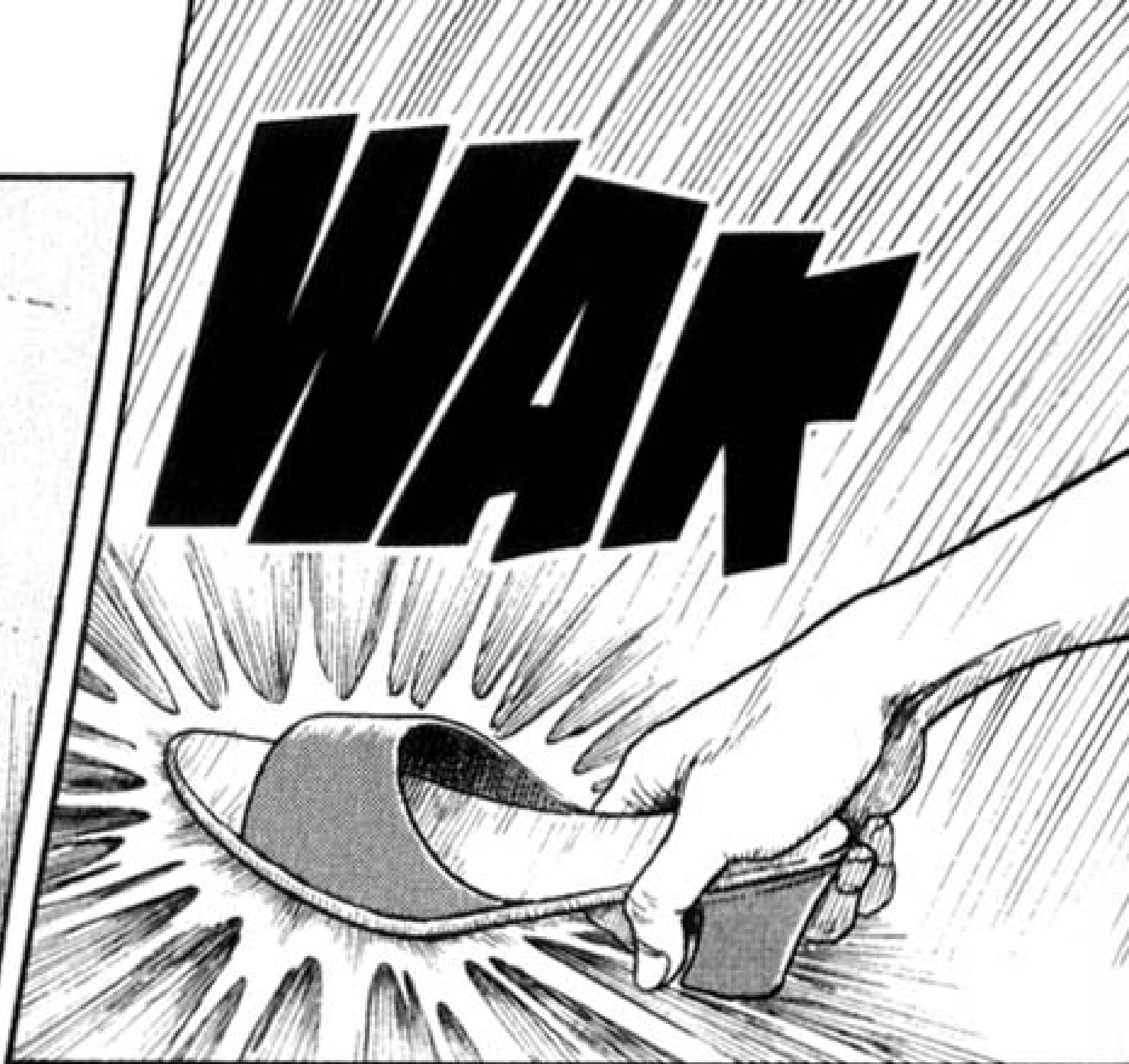


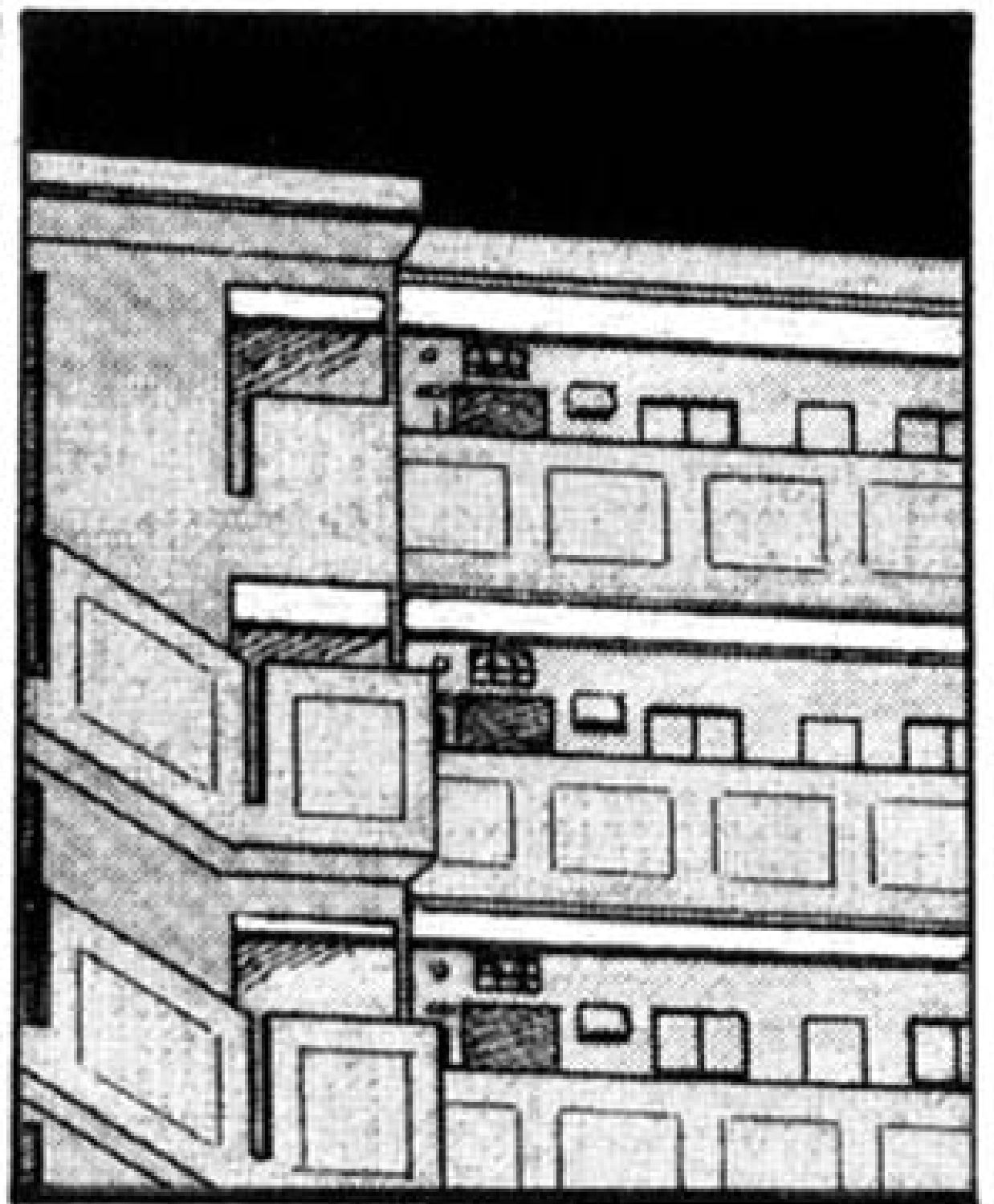
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
HERE.

SEE  
?

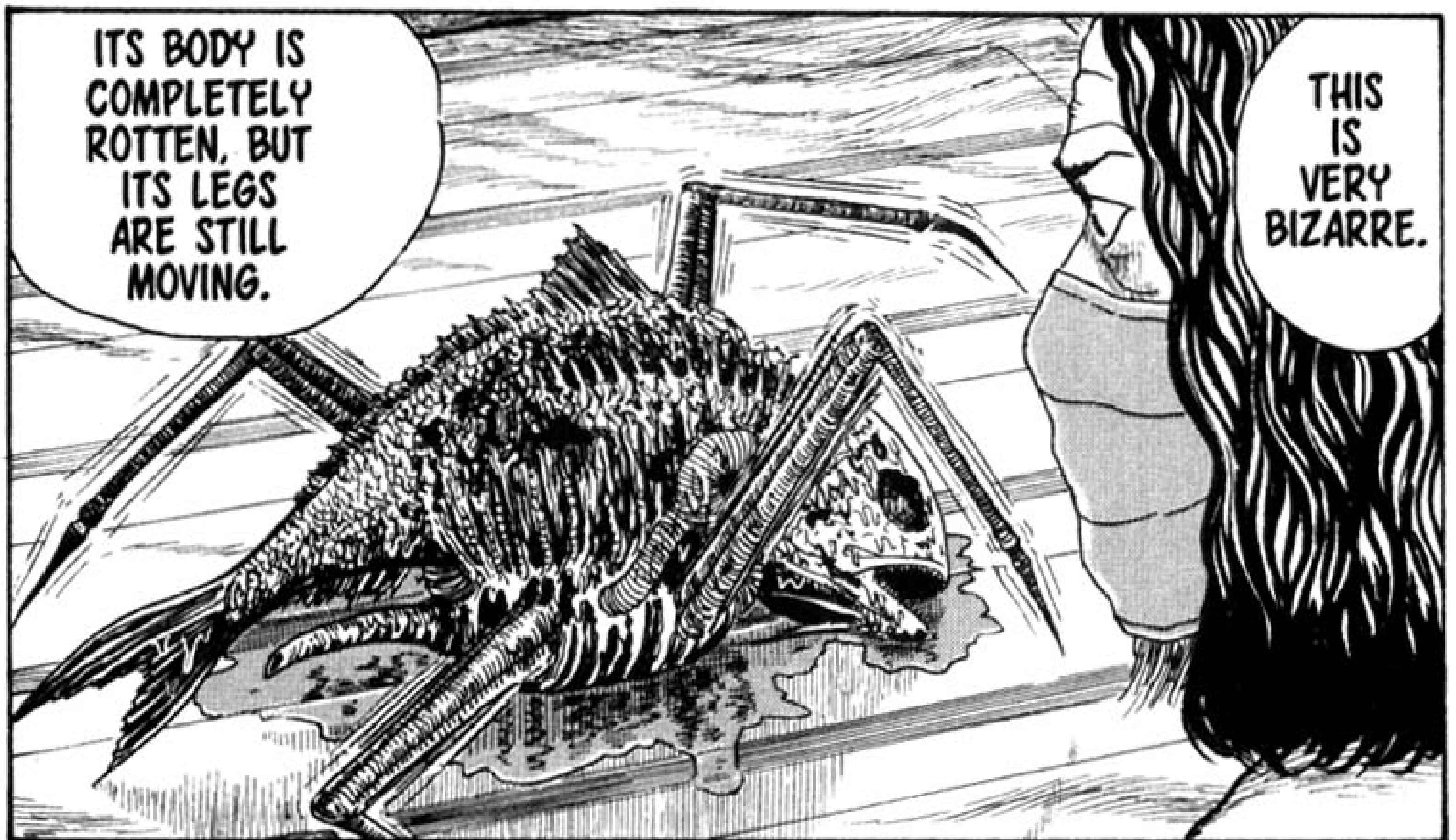
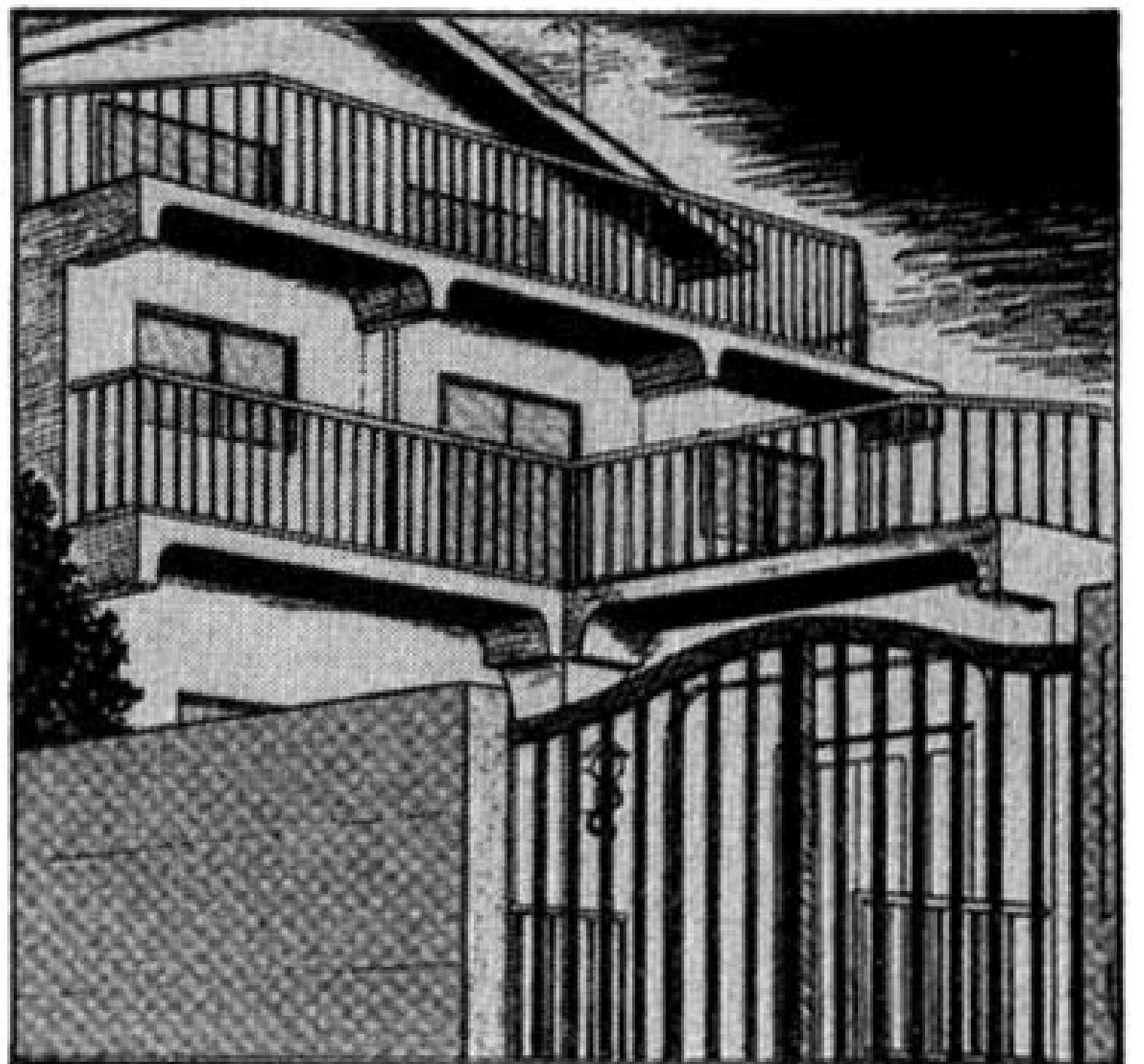
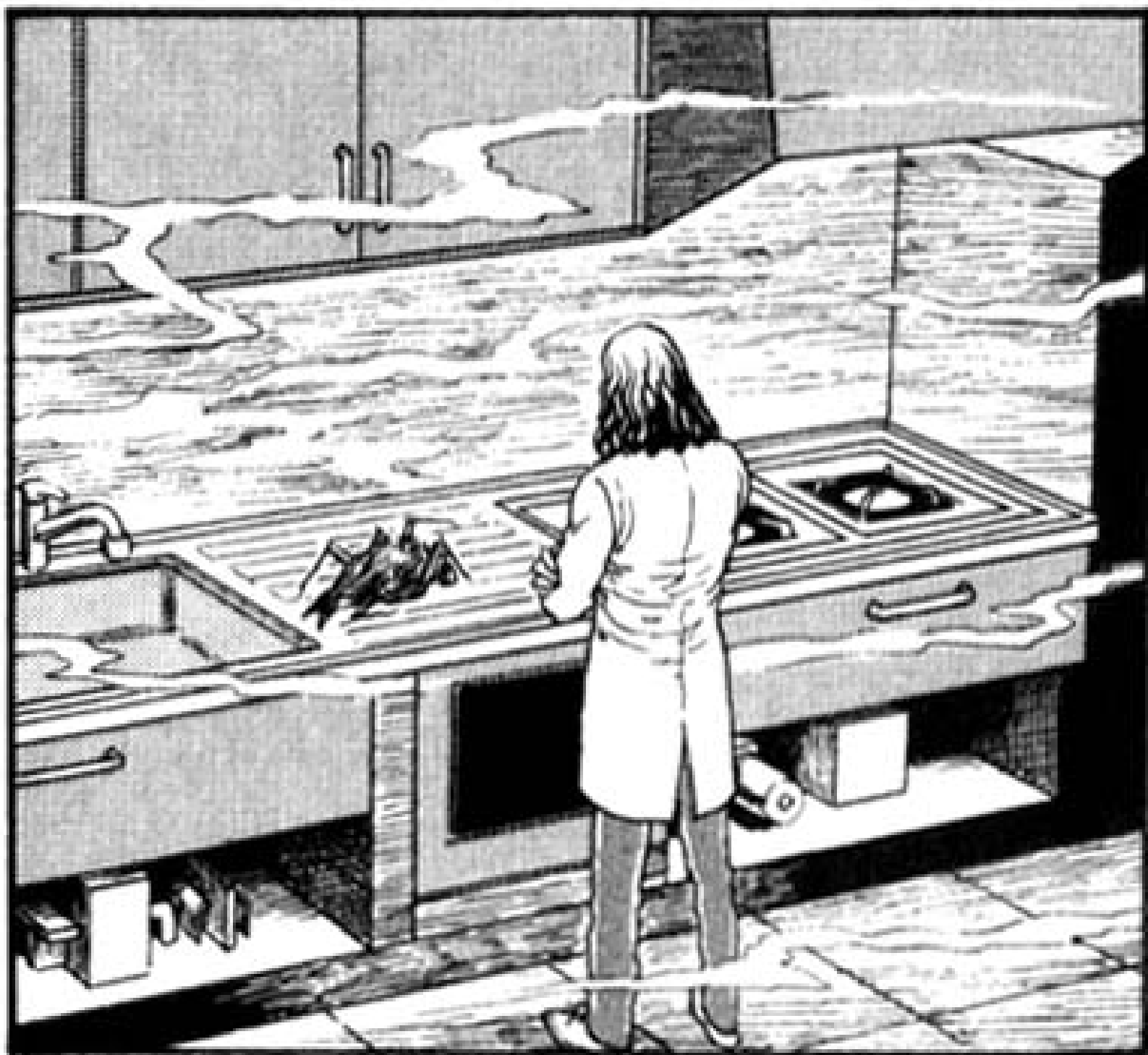


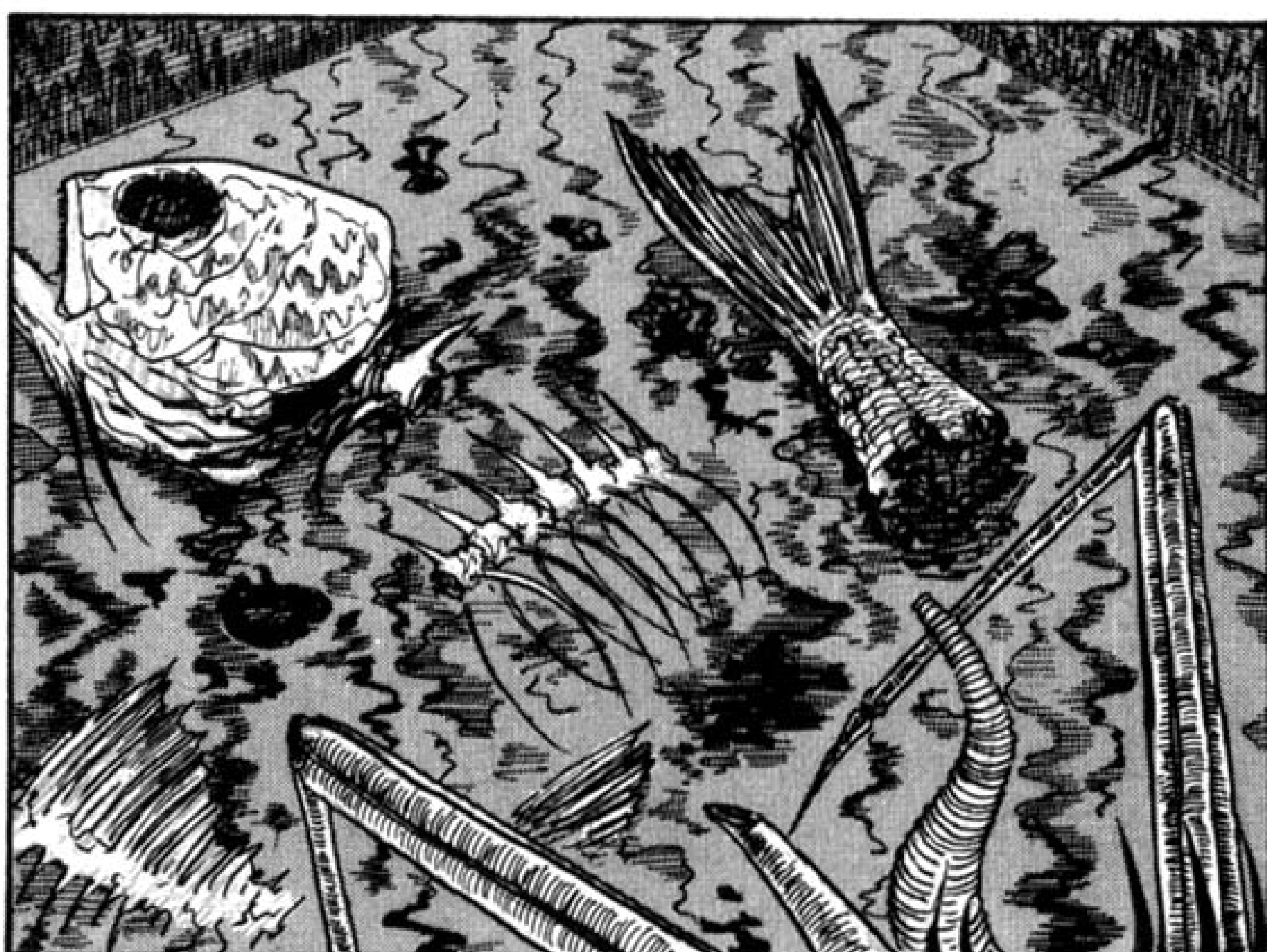


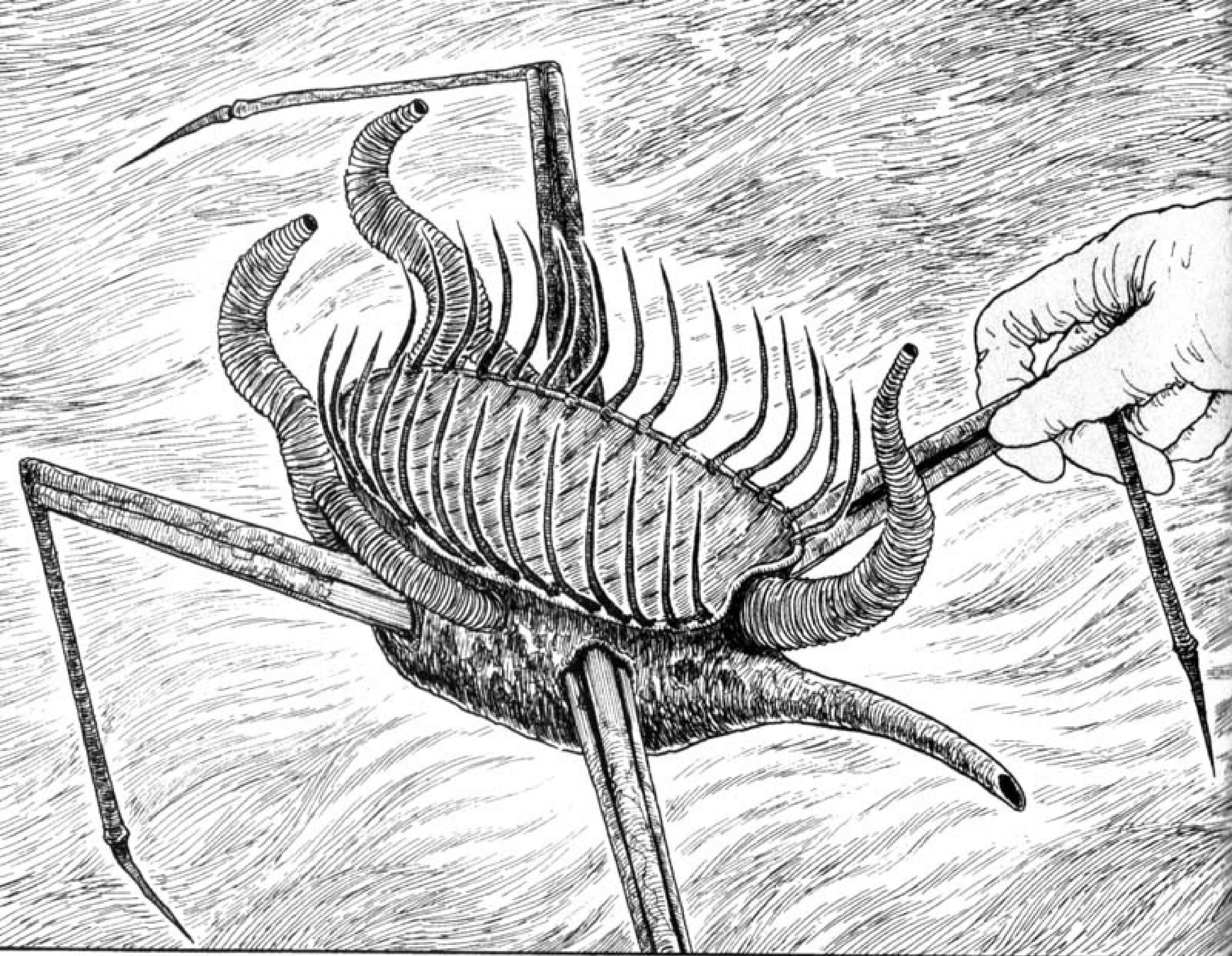












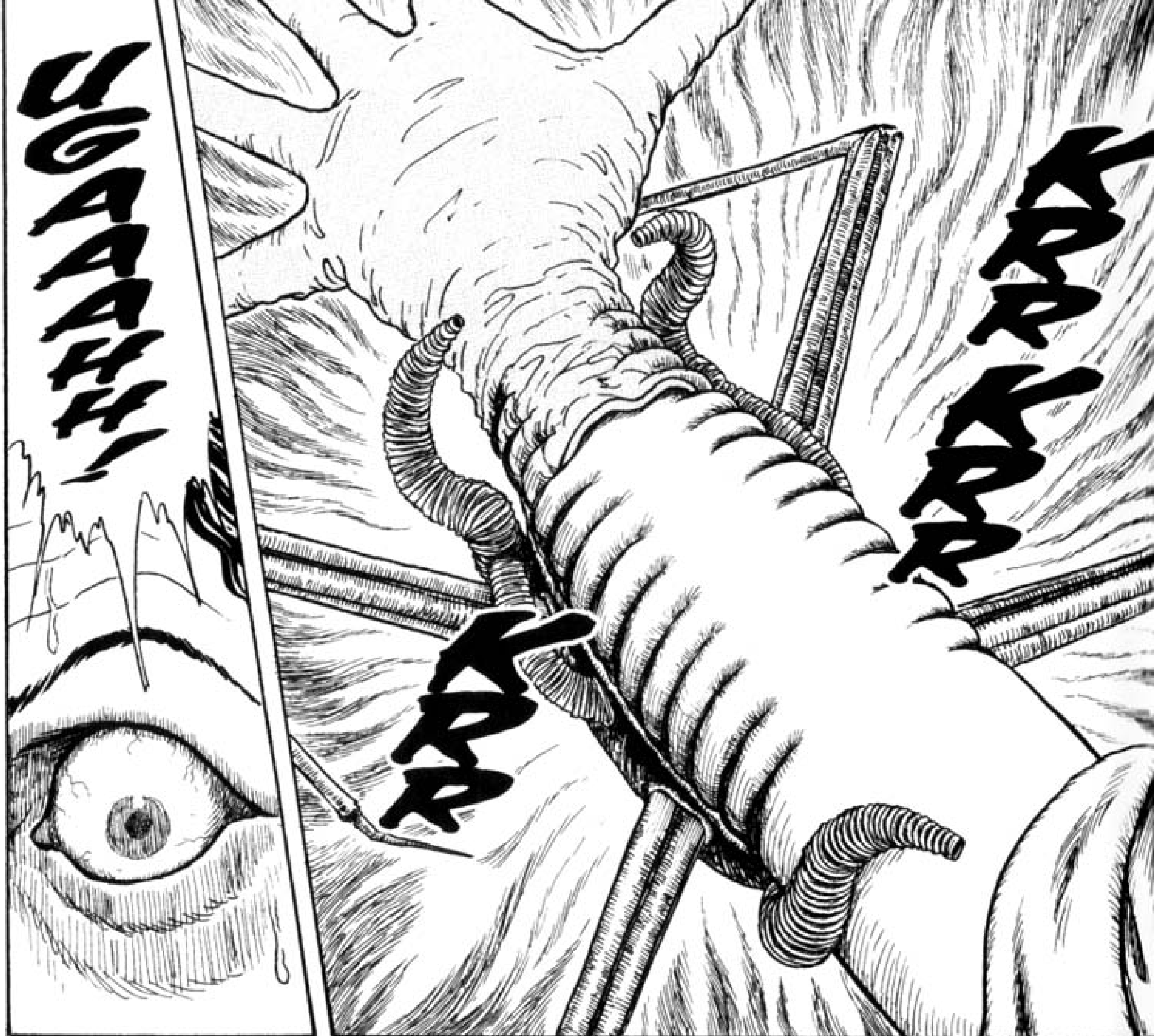
IS  
THIS  
PART  
OF THE  
FISH?

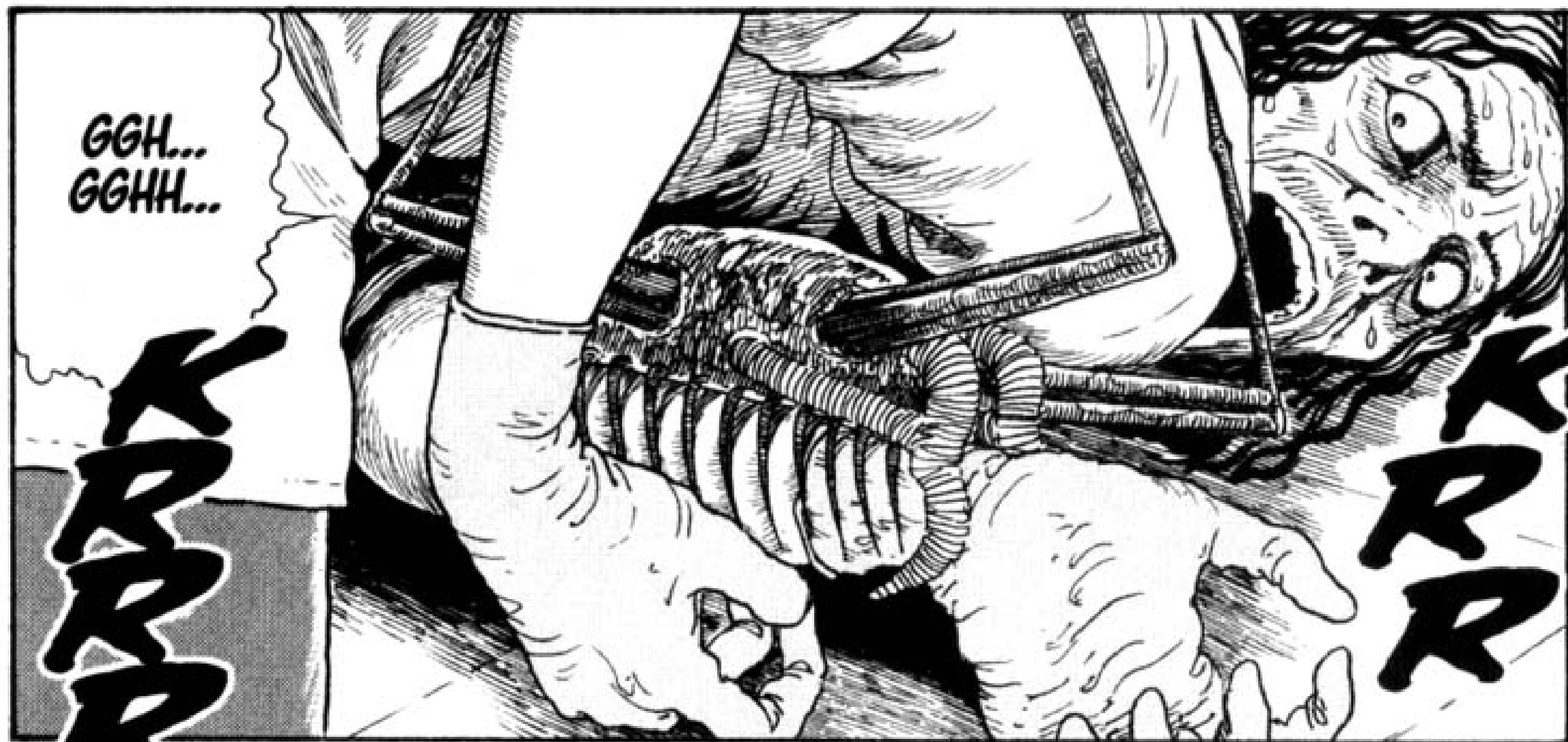






PAIN









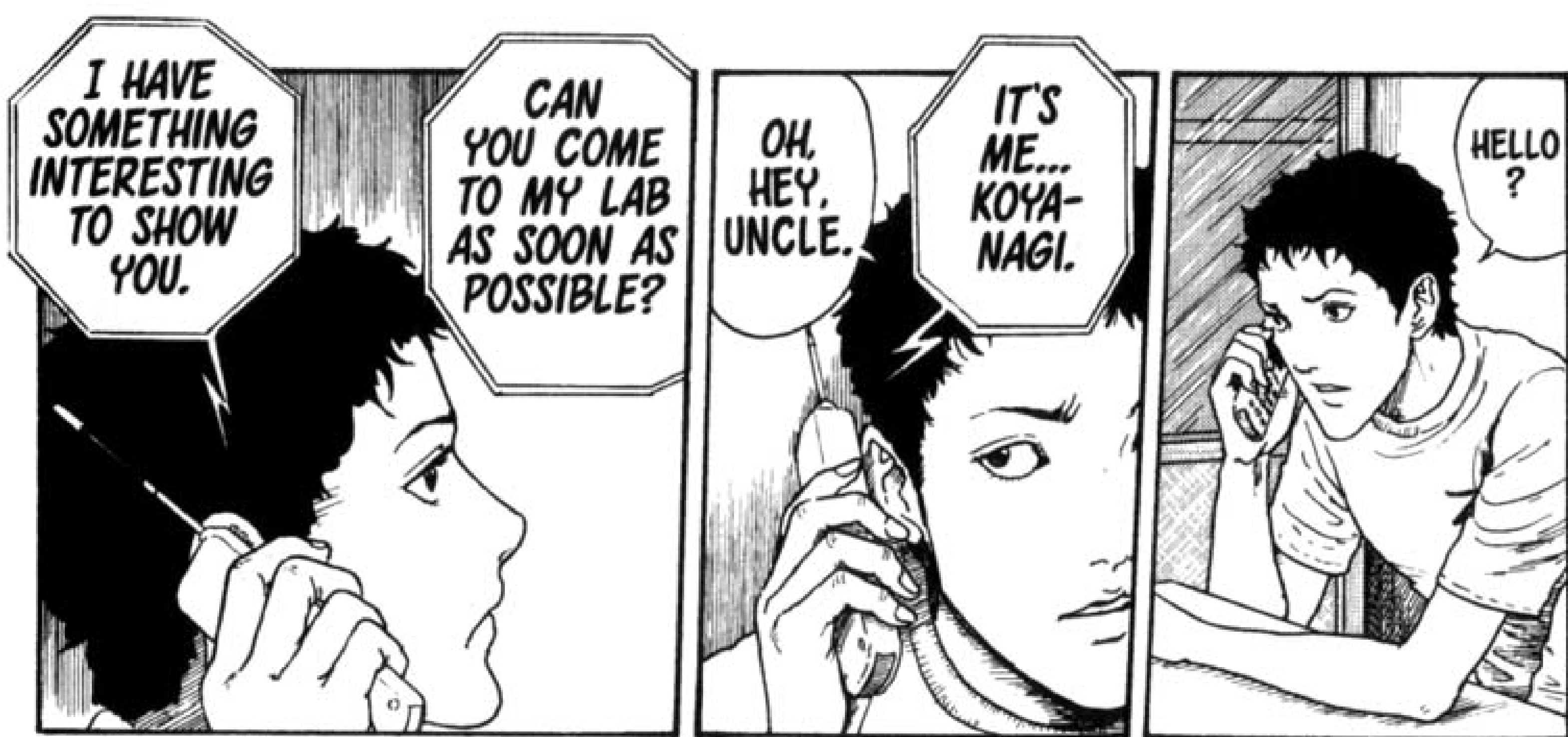


**AAIIIEEEE!!**

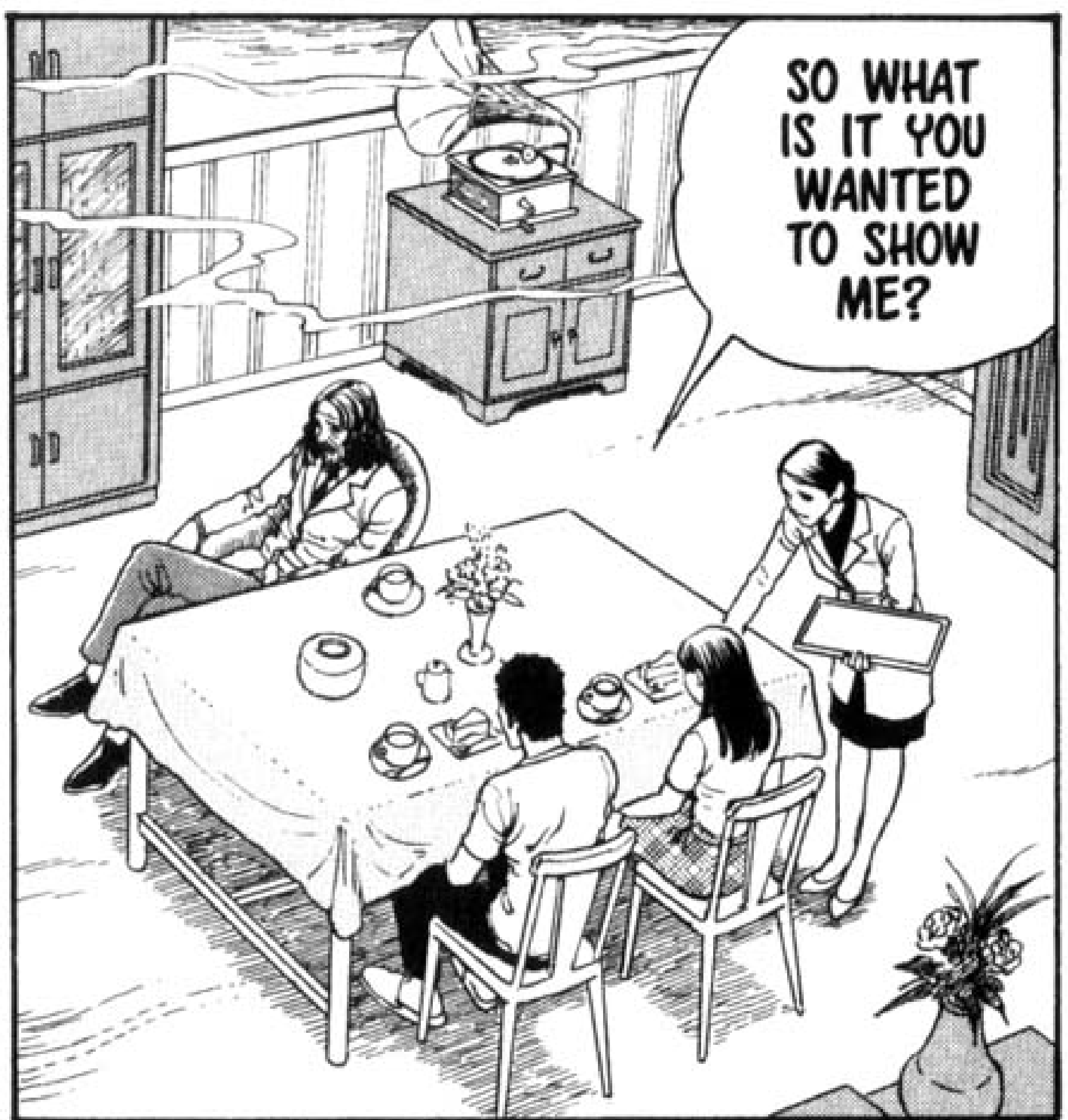
















...HE  
SEEMED  
TO DREAD  
THE SMELL  
OF HIS  
CORPSE.

OF COURSE,  
MY FAMILY WAS  
PLANNING TO  
ANYWAY...BUT THE  
WAY MY FATHER  
SAID IT...



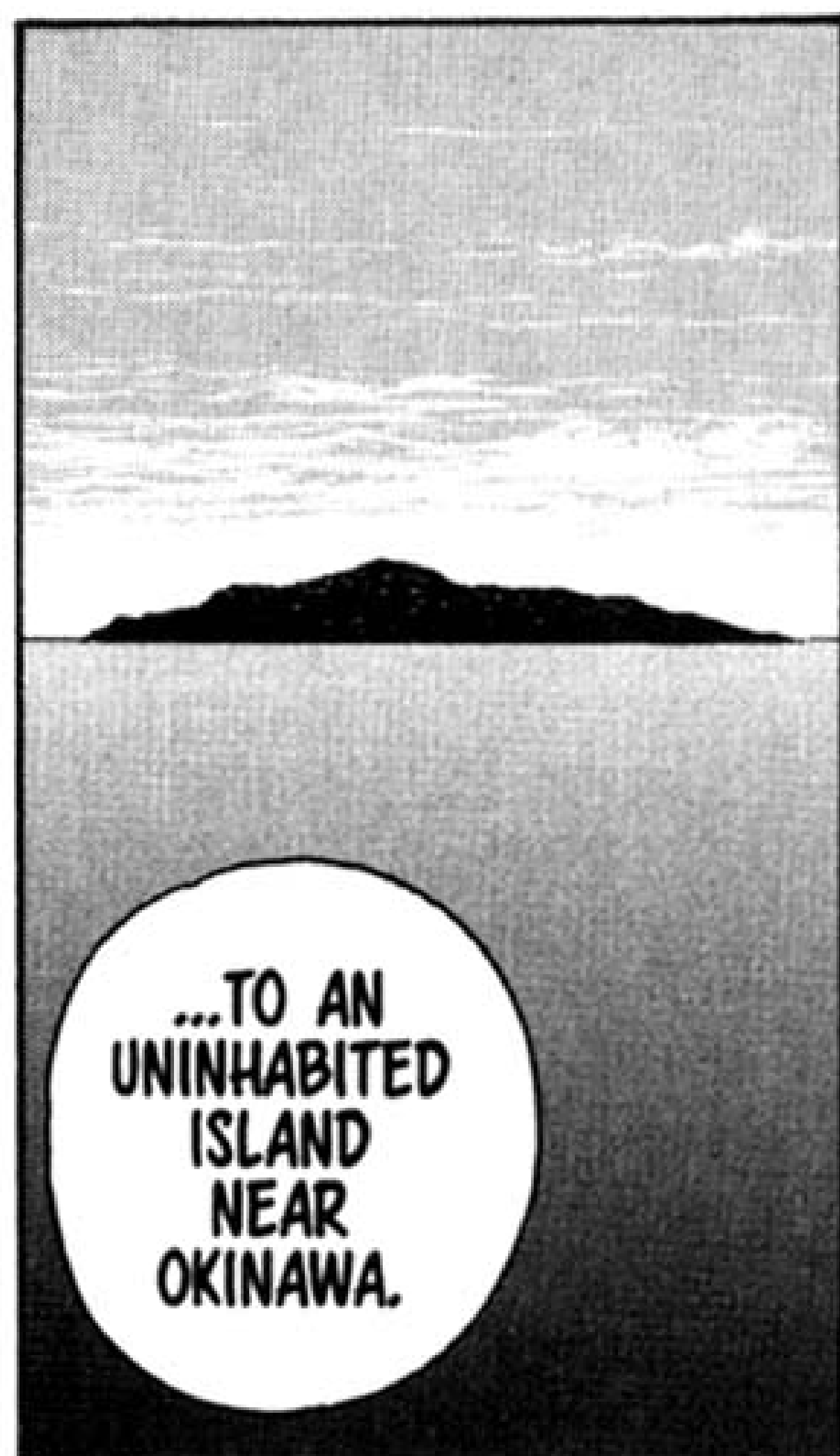
"WHEN I  
DIE, I  
WANT  
TO BE  
CREMATED."

WHEN HE  
WAS ALIVE  
MY FATHER  
USED TO  
SAY...



YES...I HAVE  
TO TELL YOU  
ABOUT THAT  
FIRST...THOUGH  
IT'S SENILE  
GIBBERISH  
FOR ALL I  
KNOW.

DON'T YOU THINK  
THAT'S STRANGE? WHO  
WOULD CARE HOW THEY  
SMELL AFTER THEY'RE  
DEAD, LET ALONE LET IT  
BOTHER THEM? BUT  
WHEN I THINK ABOUT  
THE STORY MY FATHER  
TOLD ME, NOT TOO LONG  
BEFORE HE DIED...

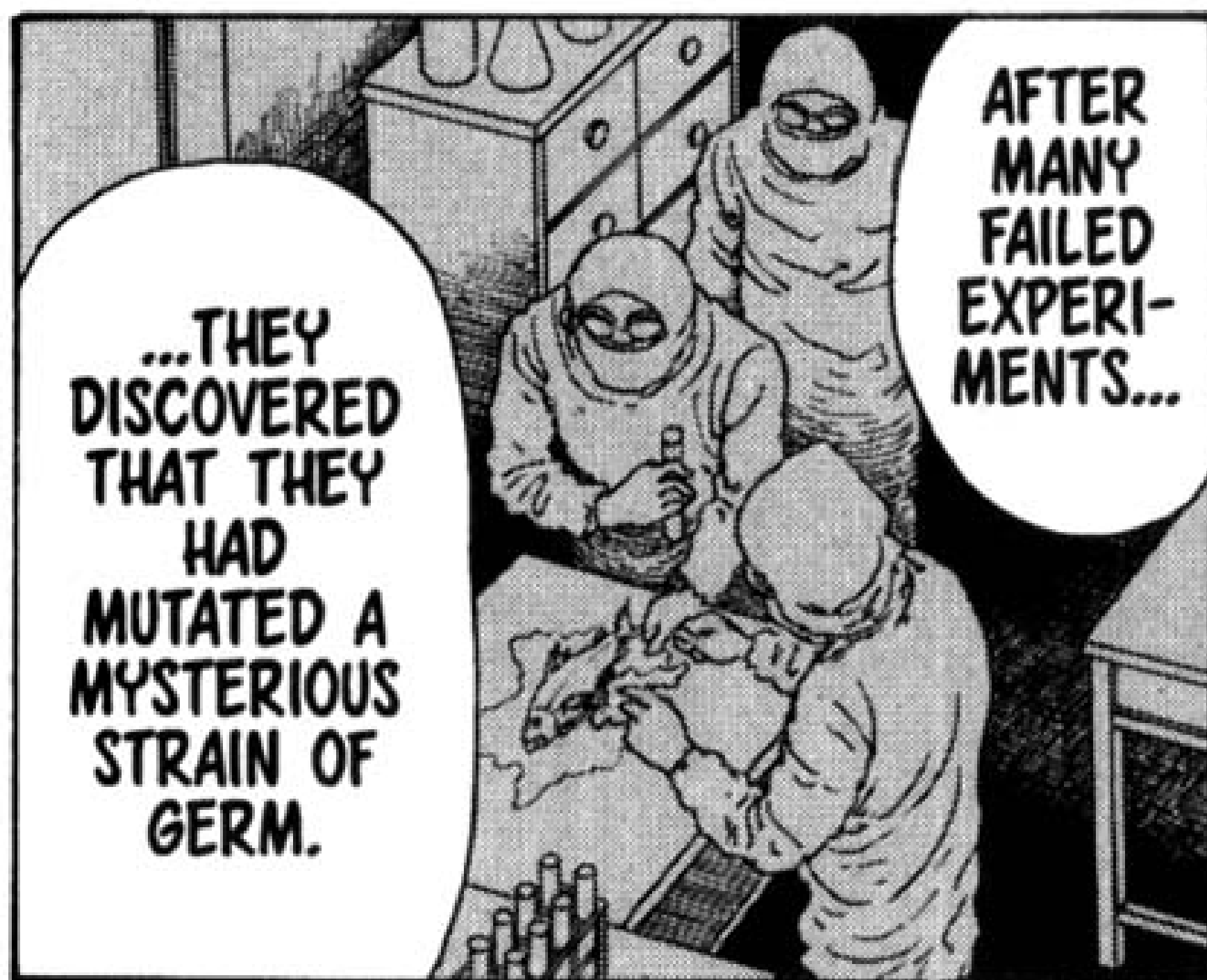


...TO AN  
UNINHABITED  
ISLAND  
NEAR  
OKINAWA.



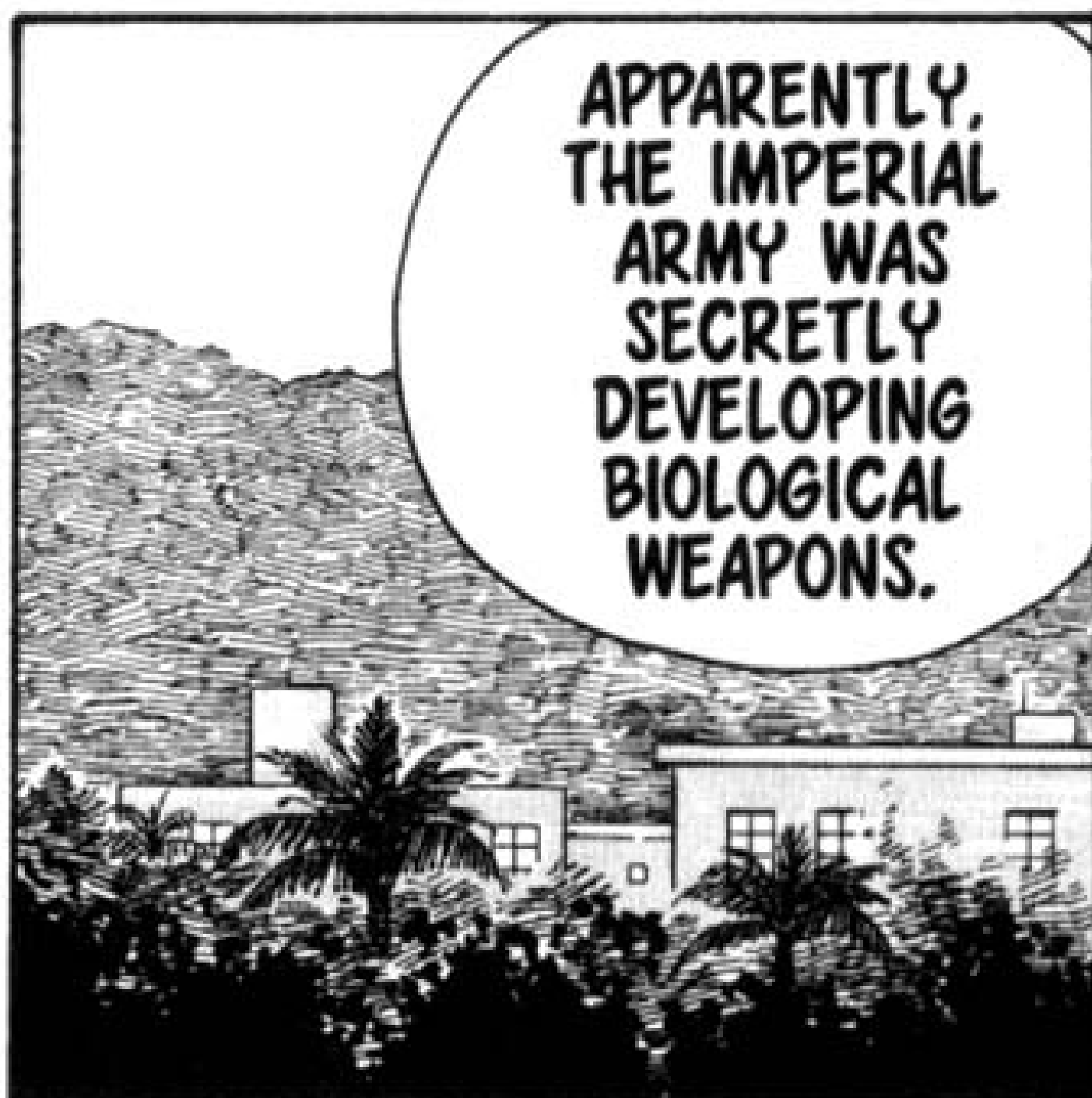
DURING  
THE PACIFIC  
WAR, HE WAS  
TRANSFERRED  
FROM HIS  
ASSIGNED  
LAB...

MY  
FATHER WAS A  
SCIENTIST FOR  
THE IMPERIAL  
JAPANESE ARMY  
DURING THE  
WAR.



...THEY  
DISCOVERED  
THAT THEY  
HAD  
MUTATED A  
MYSTERIOUS  
STRAIN OF  
GERM.

AFTER  
MANY  
FAILED  
EXPERI-  
MENTS...

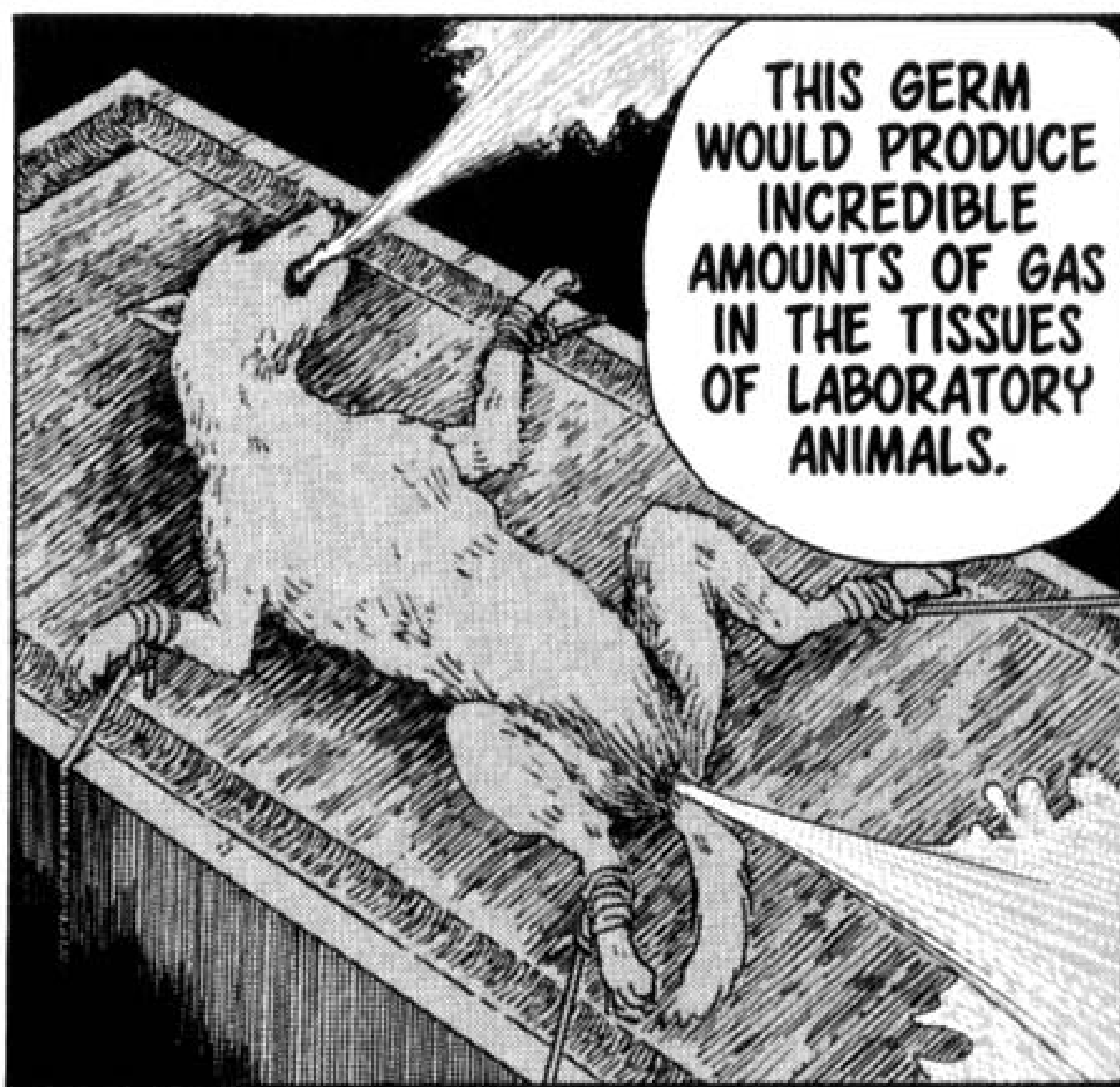


APPARENTLY,  
THE IMPERIAL  
ARMY WAS  
SECRETLY  
DEVELOPING  
BIOLOGICAL  
WEAPONS.



...THE  
ANIMALS'  
BODIES  
WOULD  
INFLATE.

WHEN THE  
TECHNICIANS  
SEALED  
THEIR  
ORIFICES...



THIS GERM  
WOULD PRODUCE  
INCREDIBLE  
AMOUNTS OF GAS  
IN THE TISSUES  
OF LABORATORY  
ANIMALS.



IT  
REEKED OF  
ROTTING  
FLESH...THE  
STENCH OF  
A HUMAN  
CORPSE.

BUT WHAT  
REALLY SURPRISED  
THE SCIENTISTS  
WASN'T THE  
AMOUNT OF THE  
GAS...IT WAS THE  
SMELL.

THAT'S  
WHEN THEIR  
SUPERVISORS  
REALIZED THAT  
IT COULD BE  
USED AS A  
WEAPON.

THE SMELL  
WAS SO BAD,  
MANY OF THE  
RESEARCHERS  
BECAME  
ILL.

BUT AS  
JAPAN'S MILITARY  
POWER RAPIDLY  
DETERIORATED, THE  
GOVERNMENT  
APPROVED THE  
PROJECT OUT OF  
DESPERATION.

USING  
A SMELL  
AS A WEAPON  
SEEMS  
INEFFICIENT...  
WHAT A  
FOOLISH  
IDEA.

THE GERM  
DETERIORATED  
THE ANIMALS'  
NERVOUS SYSTEM,  
AND PARALYZED  
THEM BEFORE  
THEY COULD  
TRAVEL FAR  
ENOUGH TO  
SPREAD THE  
SMELL.

BUT  
THE PLAN  
RAN INTO  
A PROBLEM.

THEIR  
FIRST IDEA WAS  
TO SEND IN WAVES  
OF INFECTED DOGS  
AND CATS TO  
NAUSEATE THE  
ENEMY.

AND  
SO THEY  
ASKED A  
BRILLIANT  
SCIENTIST  
...MY  
FATHER.

THEY  
NEEDED A  
BETTER  
MEDIUM FOR  
TRANSMISSION.

IT MIGHT  
HAVE WORKED IN  
CLOSE-QUARTERS  
COMBAT, ISLAND  
BY ISLAND,  
JUNGLE BY  
JUNGLE.



...WAS A  
WALKING  
MACHINE  
OPERATED  
BY GAS  
PRESSURE!!

HIS  
SOLU-  
TION...

OF COURSE, HE  
HAD HIS DOUBTS,  
BUT HE WAS  
CURIOUS ABOUT THE  
GERM'S ABILITY  
TO PRODUCE  
GAS...

...AND HE  
CLAIMED  
HE CAME  
UP WITH  
THE  
ANSWER.

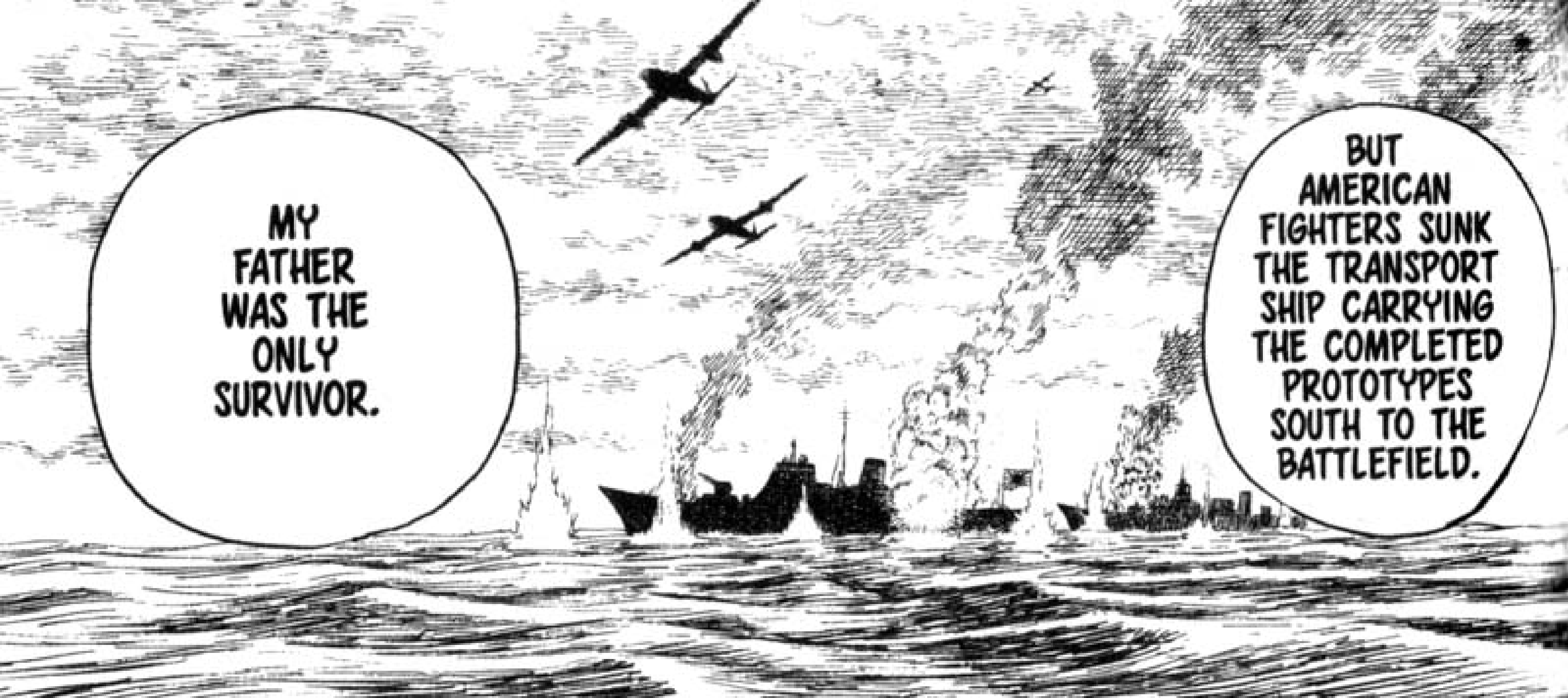
IT  
SEEMS LIKE  
TOO MUCH TO  
IMAGINE...  
WHAT A  
BIZARRE  
WEAPON!

CATS, DOGS,  
COWS, OR HORSES  
WOULD RIDE THESE  
WALKING MACHINES  
PROPELLED BY THE  
GAS, INVADING  
ENEMY TERRITORY  
AS THEY SPREAD  
THE CLOUD OF  
DECAY.

ACCORDING  
TO HIM,  
THEY MANU-  
FACTURED  
SEVERAL...

...AND  
THEY  
WERE VERY  
SUCCESSFUL  
AT  
WALKING.

MY  
FATHER  
WENT TO  
THE ISLAND  
TO BUILD  
THIS  
MACHINE.




MY  
FATHER  
WAS THE  
ONLY  
SURVIVOR.

BUT  
AMERICAN  
FIGHTERS SUNK  
THE TRANSPORT  
SHIP CARRYING  
THE COMPLETED  
PROTOTYPES  
SOUTH TO THE  
BATTLEFIELD.



WELL...  
IT'S  
REALLY  
WEIRD...

FOR A LONG  
TIME, I DIDN'T  
BELIEVE HIM.  
BUT WHAT DO  
YOU THINK?



BUT  
WHO KNOWS  
WHETHER  
IT'S TRUE? IT'S  
SO IMPLAUSIBLE,  
AND I CAN'T  
FIND ANY  
CORROBORATING  
RECORDS.

HE WAS  
DEAD SERIOUS  
WHEN HE  
TOLD ME THIS  
STORY.

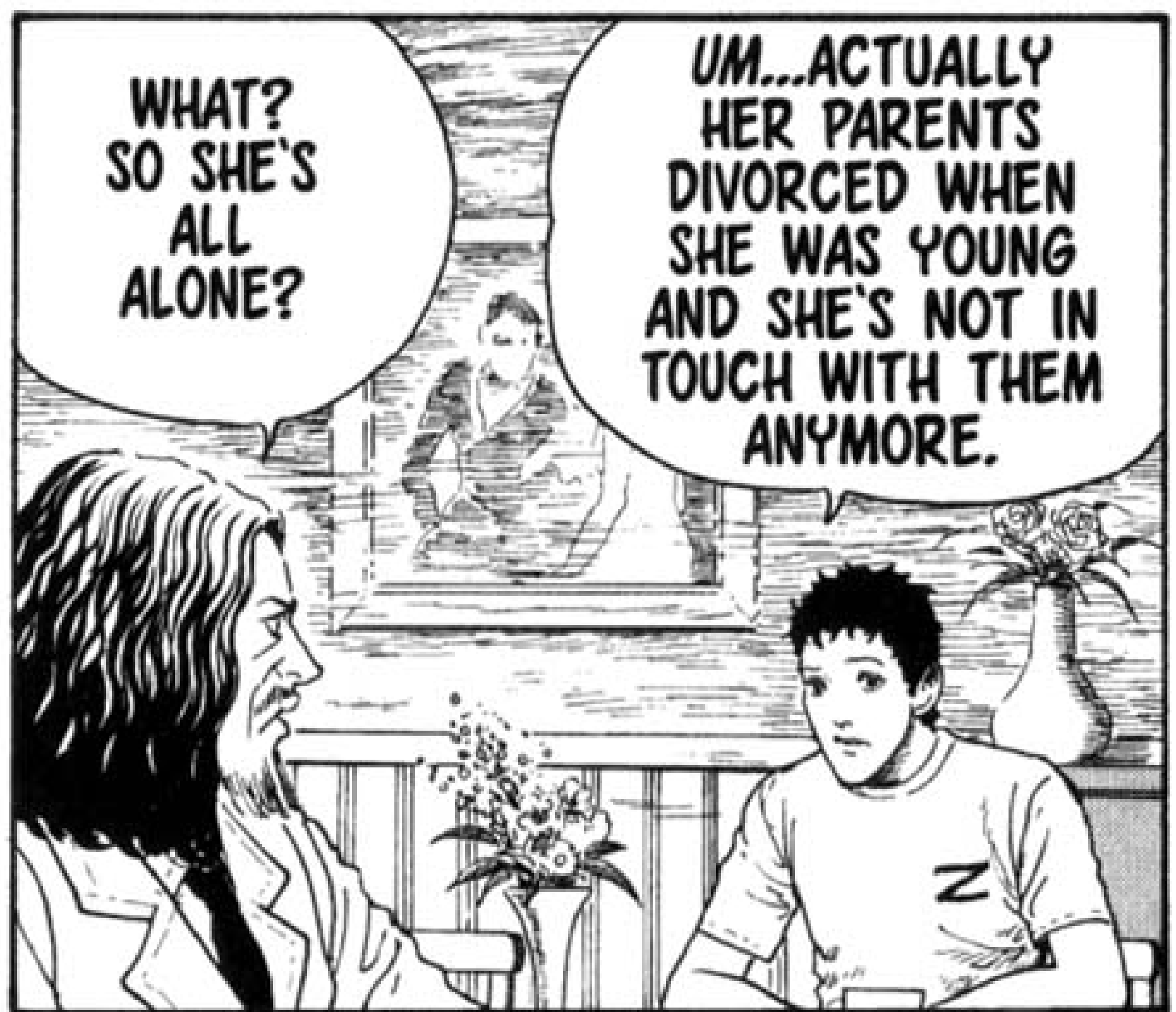


NO...  
CAN I  
USE YOUR  
BATH-  
ROOM?



KAORI,  
DO  
YOU  
FEEL  
ALL  
RIGHT?

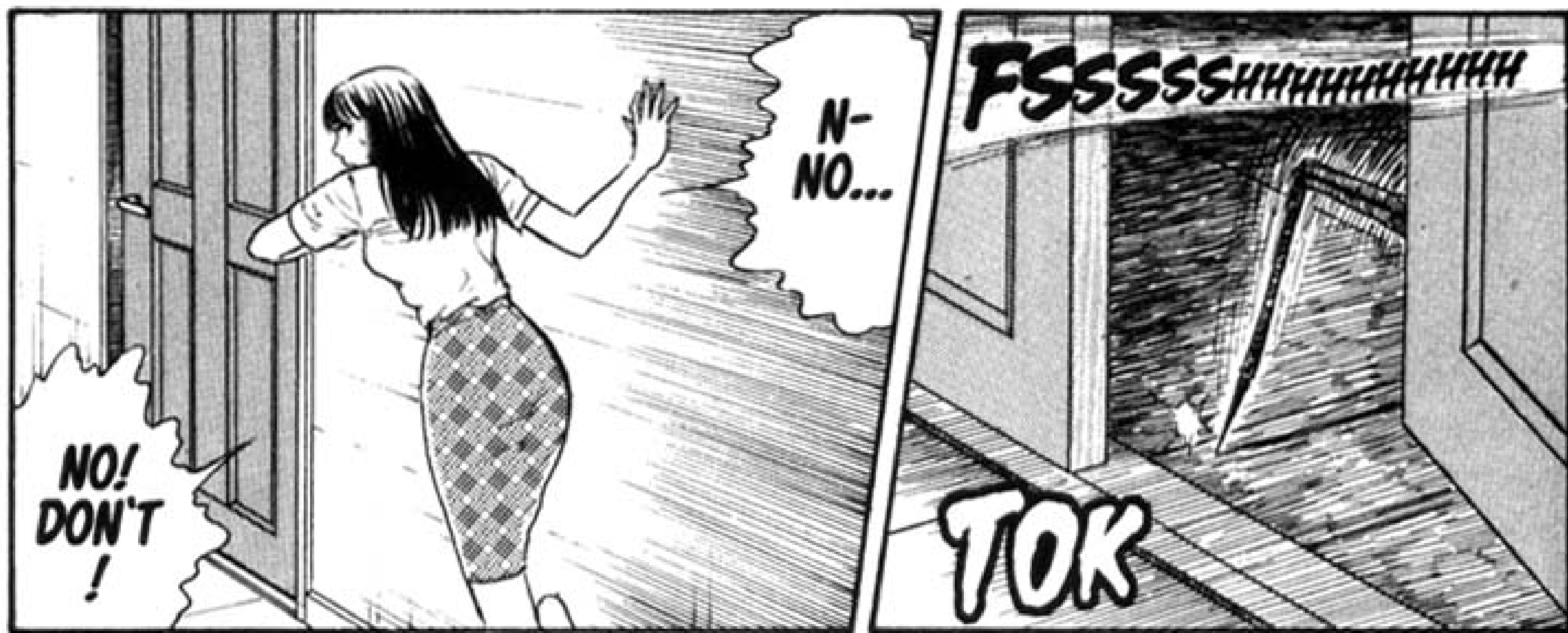














**REALLY  
!?**

**WHAT  
!?**

I  
ANALYZED  
THAT  
WALKING  
FISH.

SO  
ANYWAYS,  
TADASHI...

WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
MEAN  
?

FUSED  
...?

THE LEGS  
AND THE  
FISH WERE  
SYNTHETIC-  
ALLY FUSED  
TOGETHER!

YES...  
THAT FISH  
DIDN'T  
GROW  
LEGS...

**AAAIIEEEEE!!**





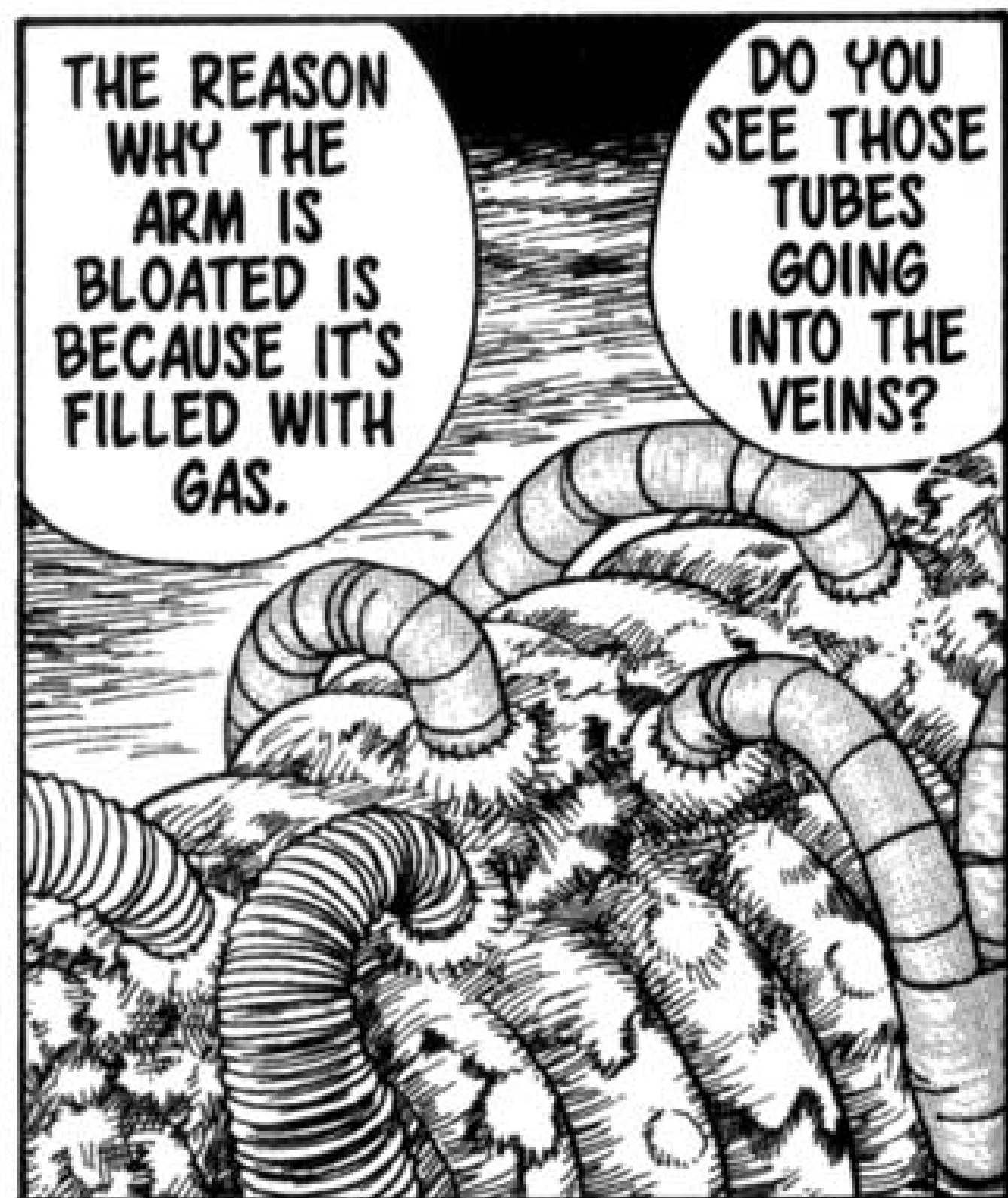
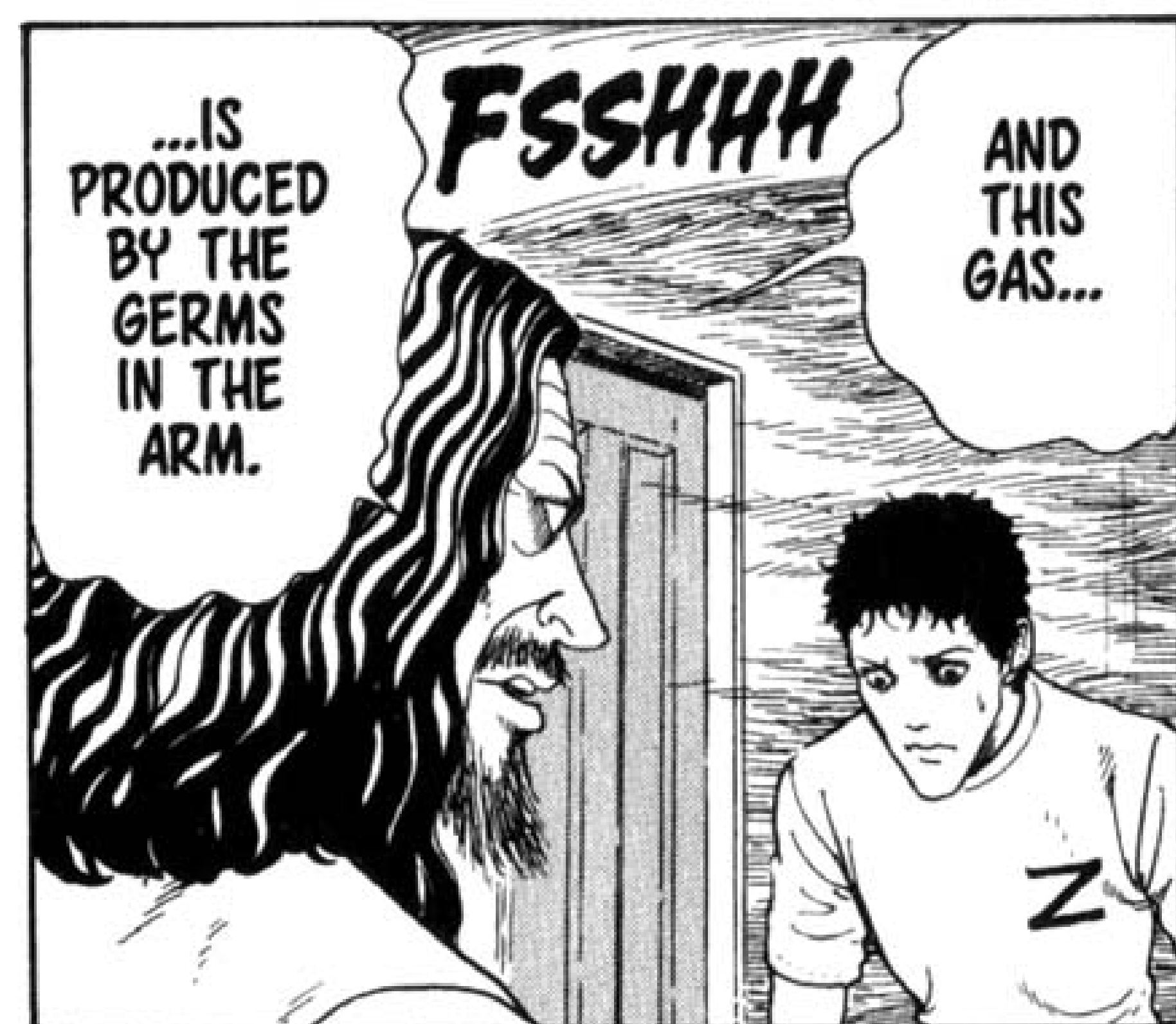
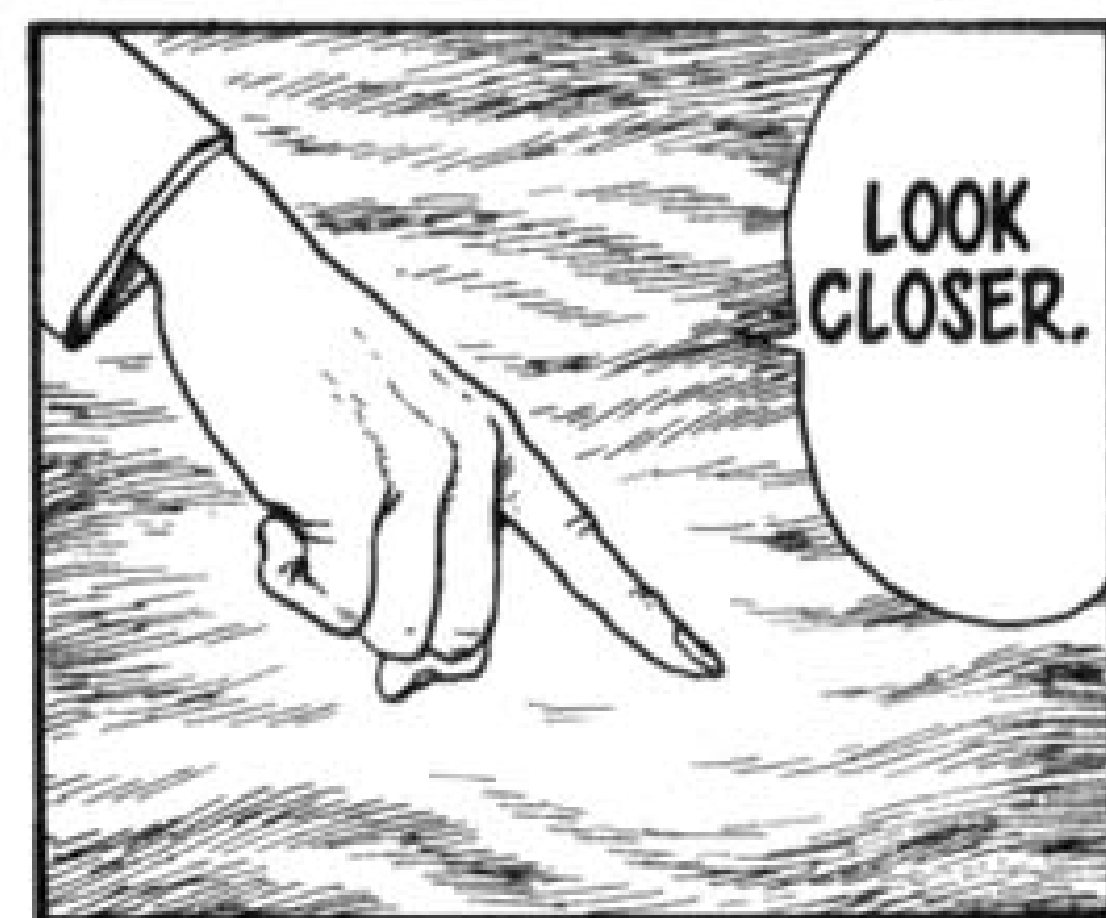
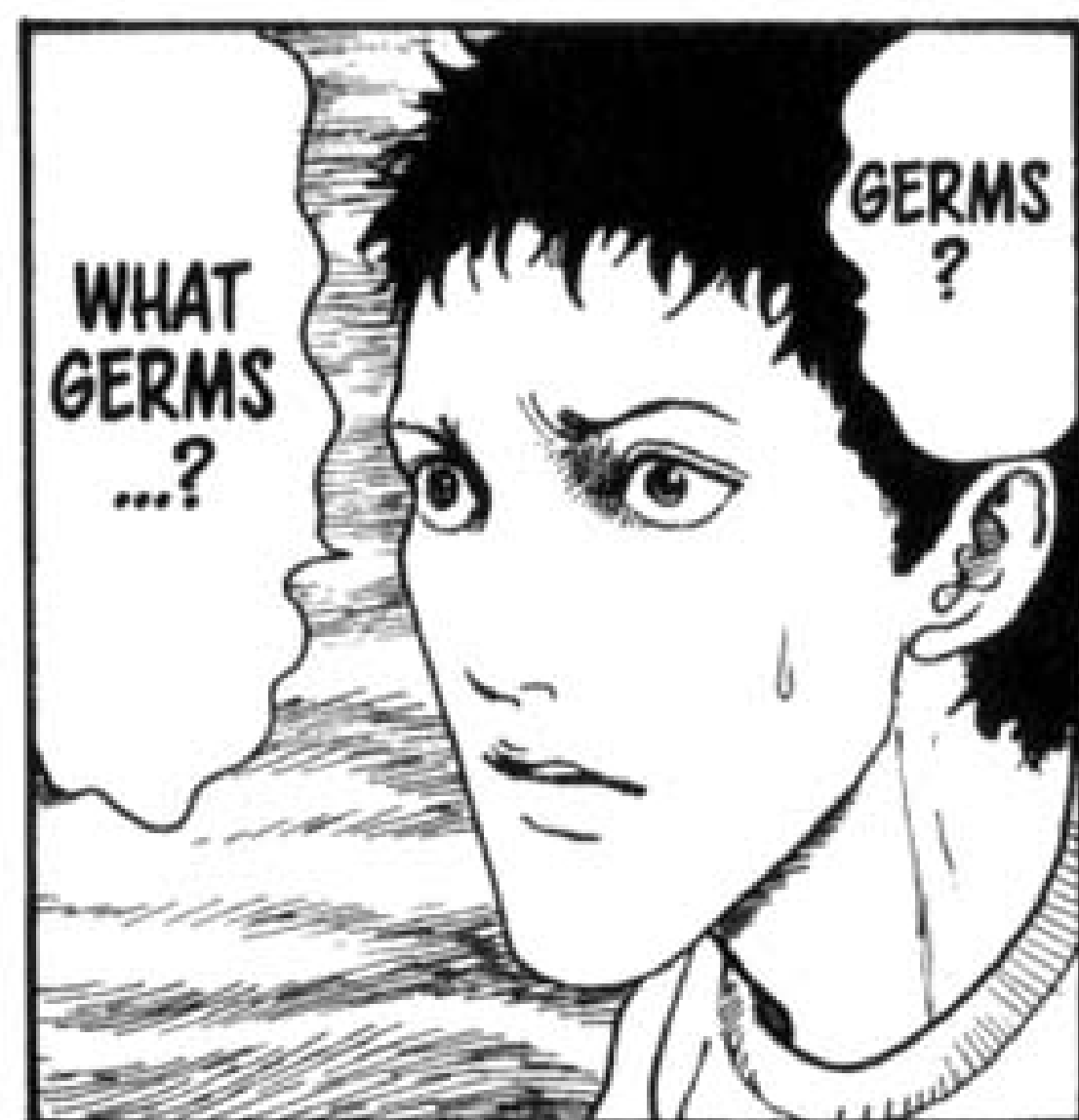
WH...  
WHAT  
THE  
HELL...?



8 / Infection











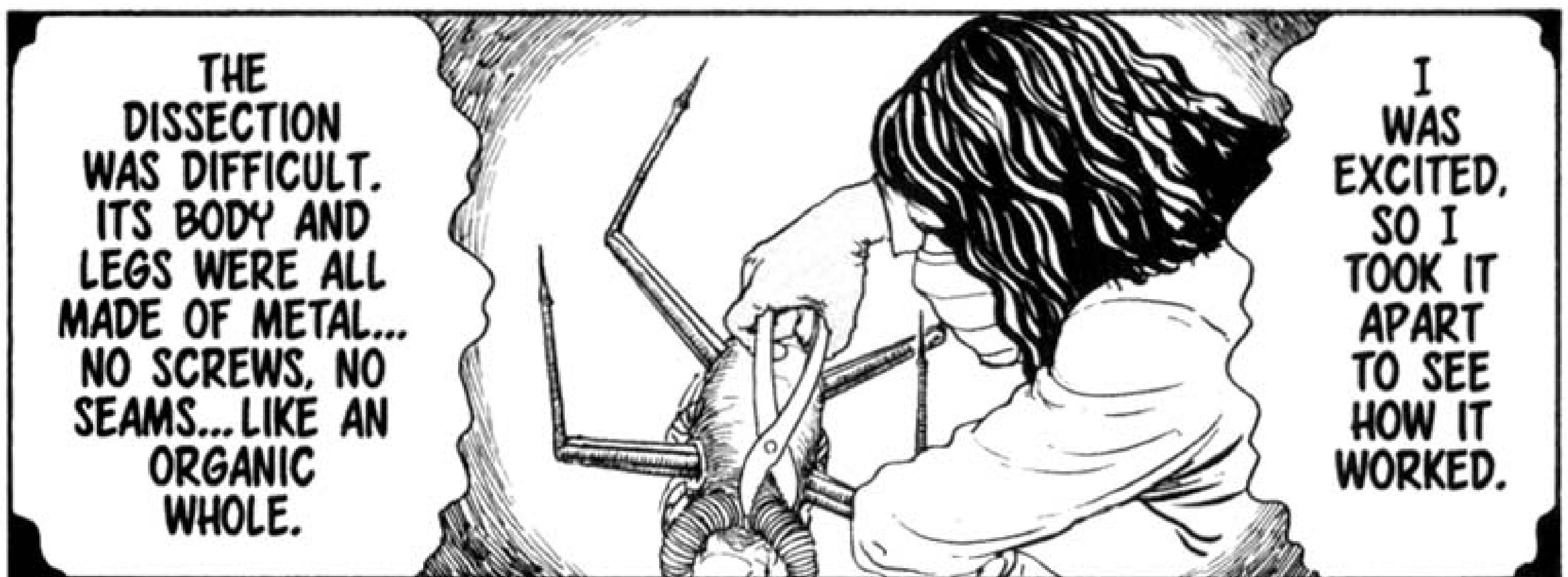
AND, AS I EXPECTED, THE LEGS STARTED TO MOVE.

**TWIK  
TWIK**



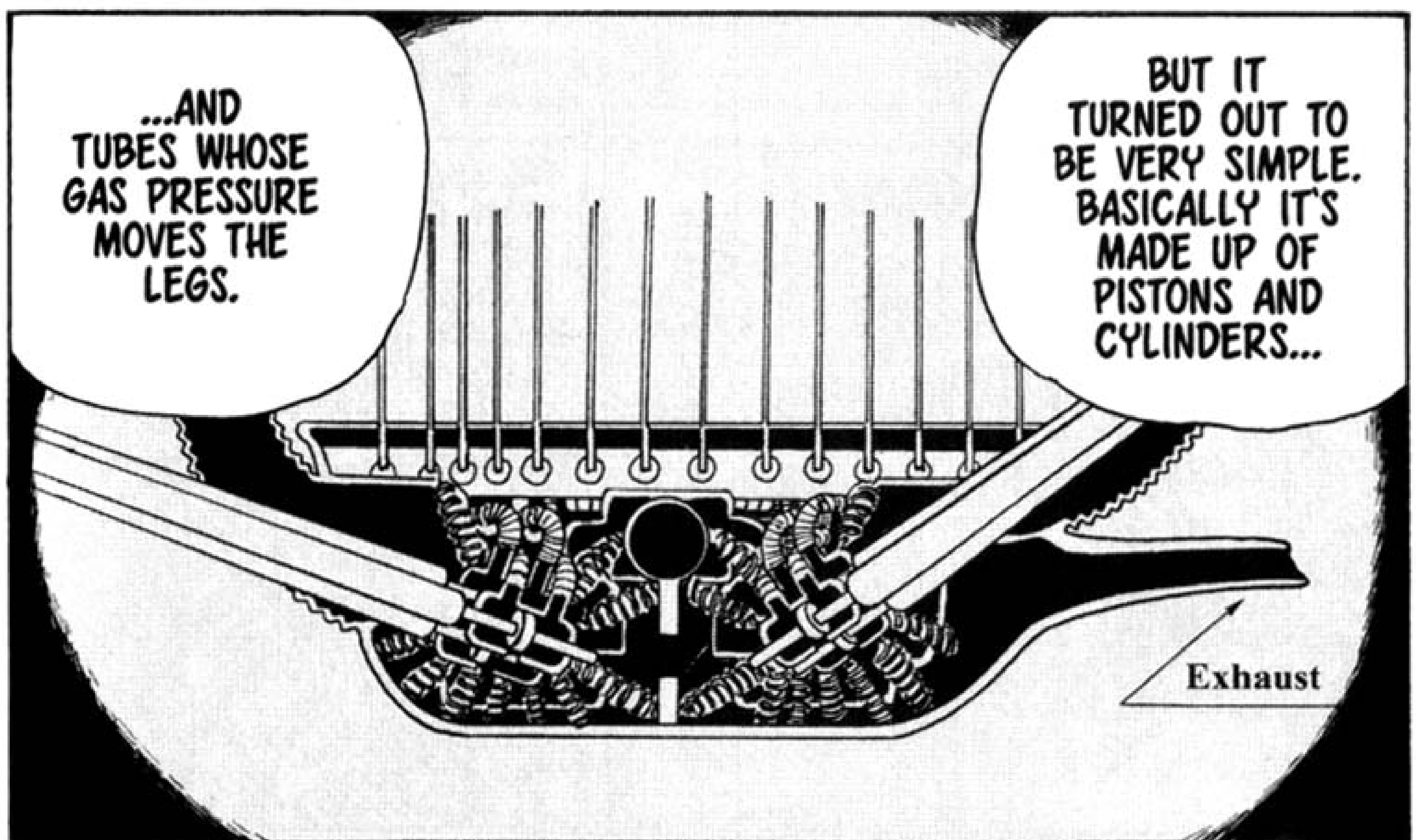
AFTER MY ARM CAME OFF, I INSERTED THESE TUBES INTO THE TISSUE.

IN NOT TOO LONG I COULD HEAR THE GAS PASSING THROUGH...



THE DISSECTION WAS DIFFICULT. ITS BODY AND LEGS WERE ALL MADE OF METAL... NO SCREWS, NO SEAMS... LIKE AN ORGANIC WHOLE.

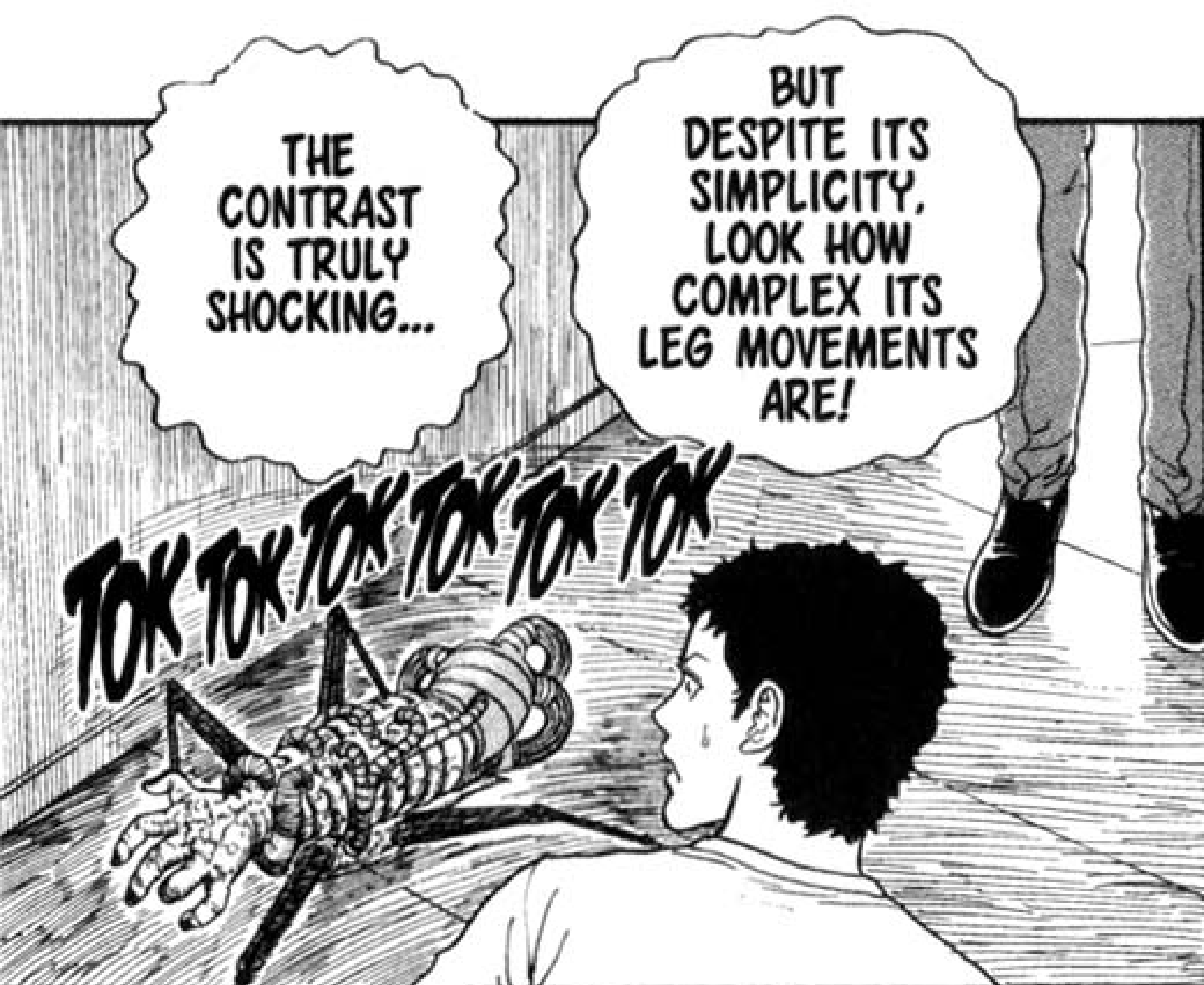
I WAS EXCITED, SO I TOOK IT APART TO SEE HOW IT WORKED.



...AND TUBES WHOSE GAS PRESSURE MOVES THE LEGS.

BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE VERY SIMPLE. BASICALLY IT'S MADE UP OF PISTONS AND CYLINDERS...

Exhaust



THE  
CONTRAST  
IS TRULY  
SHOCKING...

BUT  
DESPITE ITS  
SIMPLICITY,  
LOOK HOW  
COMPLEX ITS  
LEG MOVEMENTS  
ARE!

TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK



IT  
WAS  
EASY  
TO  
REPAIR  
...

THE FRONT  
LEFT LEG  
WAS BROKEN...  
PROBABLY  
BECAUSE YOU  
CRUSHED IT  
BEHIND YOUR  
DRESSER.

TWIK

TWIK



INSTEAD  
OF THE FISH,  
NOW IT'S MY  
ARM THAT'S  
WALKING!

JUST  
LOOK  
AT IT  
GO!

TOK TOK

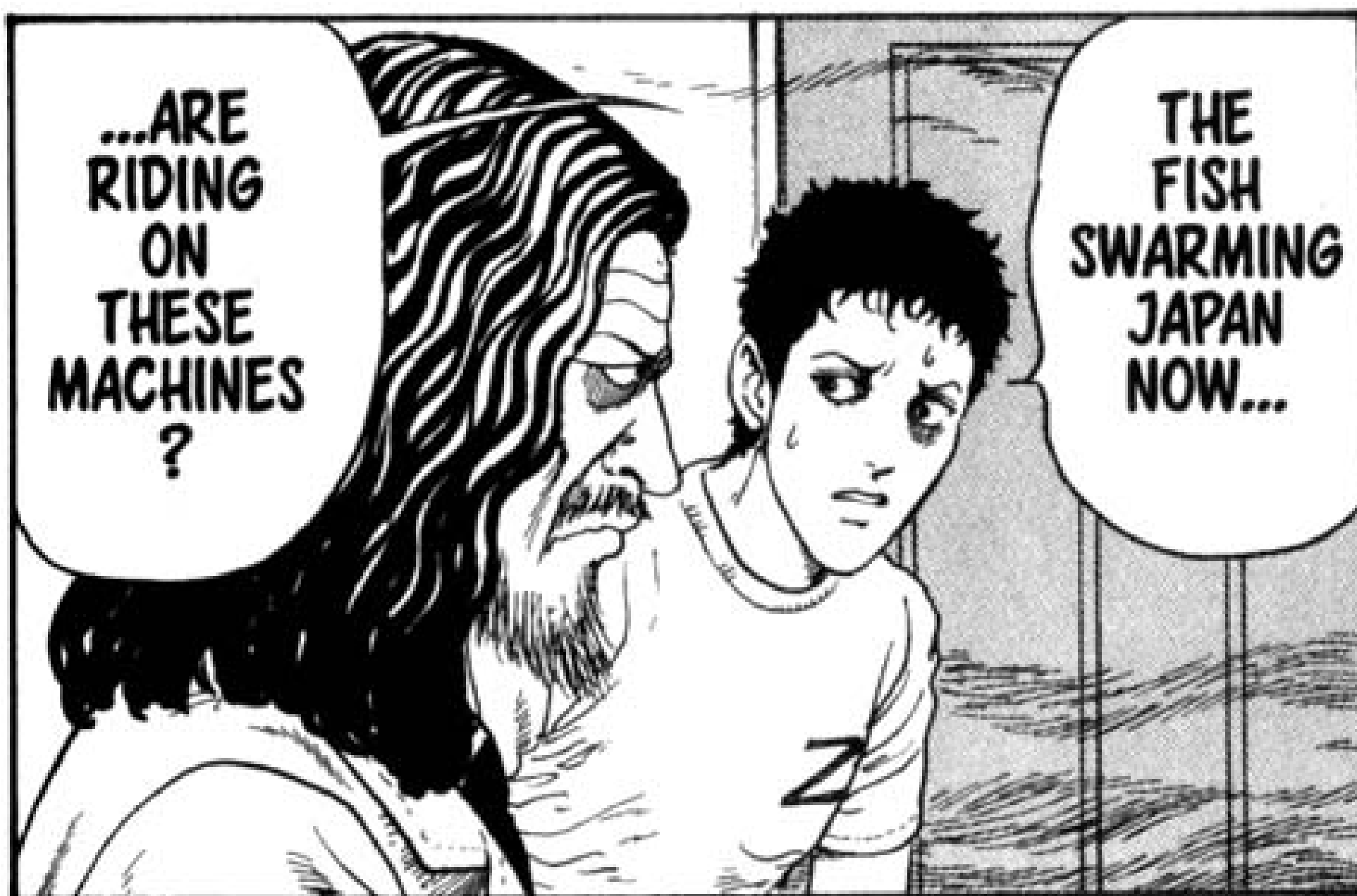


TOK

I BELIEVE THIS  
ARTICULATION  
IS DUE TO THE  
GERM'S IRREGULAR  
PRODUCTION  
OF GAS.

TOK  
TOK TOK  
TOK

THIS  
MACHINE  
MOVES  
LIKE AN  
ORGANISM  
BECAUSE  
THE GERM  
IS ALIVE!







THE  
GERMS  
...

BUT  
THEN  
...



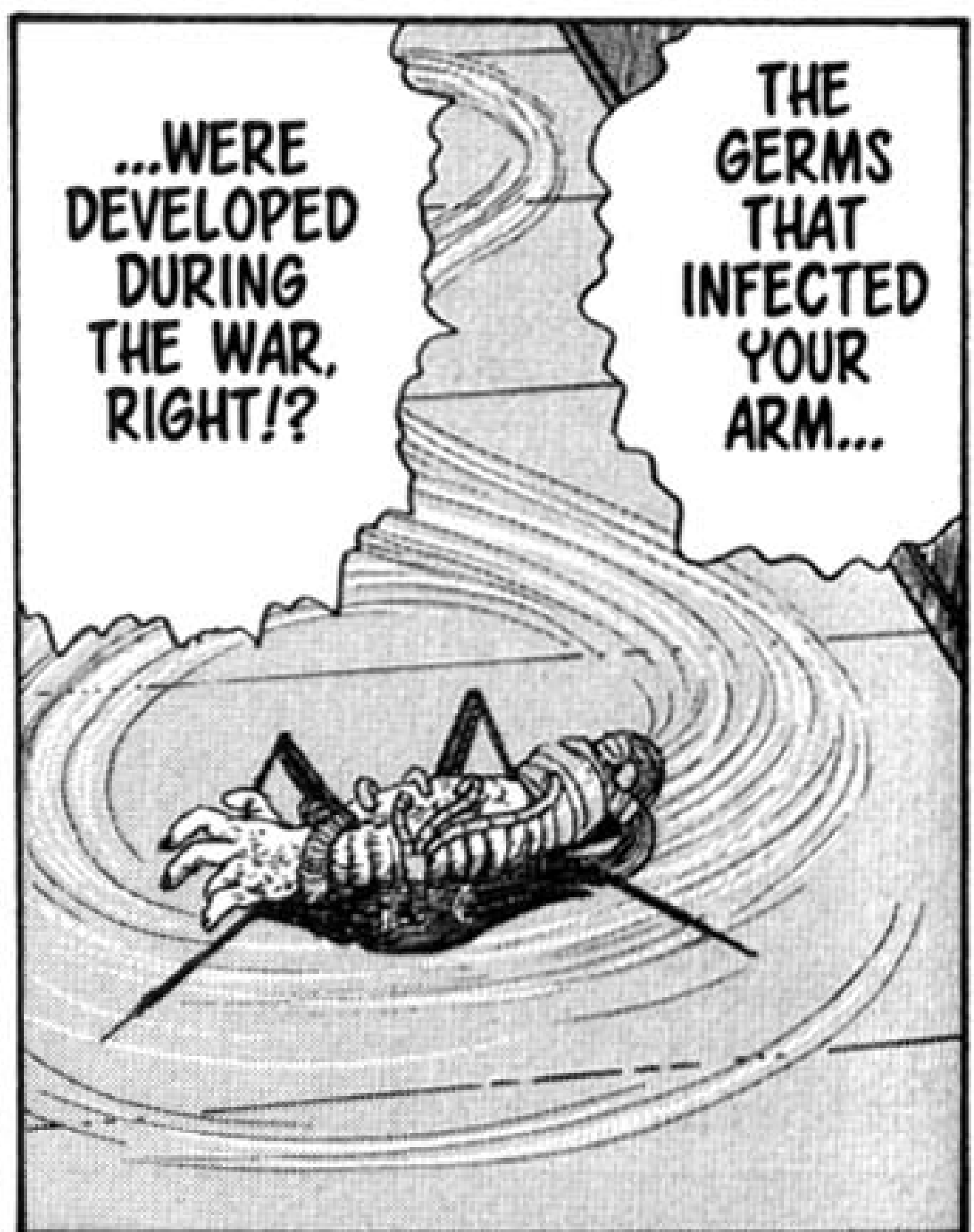
BUT IT IS TRUE  
THAT THE OBJECT  
MY FATHER CLAIMED  
TO HAVE DESIGNED  
IS WALKING AROUND  
IN FRONT OF  
OUR VERY OWN  
EYES...



WELL...  
I  
DON'T  
KNOW...



CAN  
IT  
INFECT  
HUMANS,  
TOO?



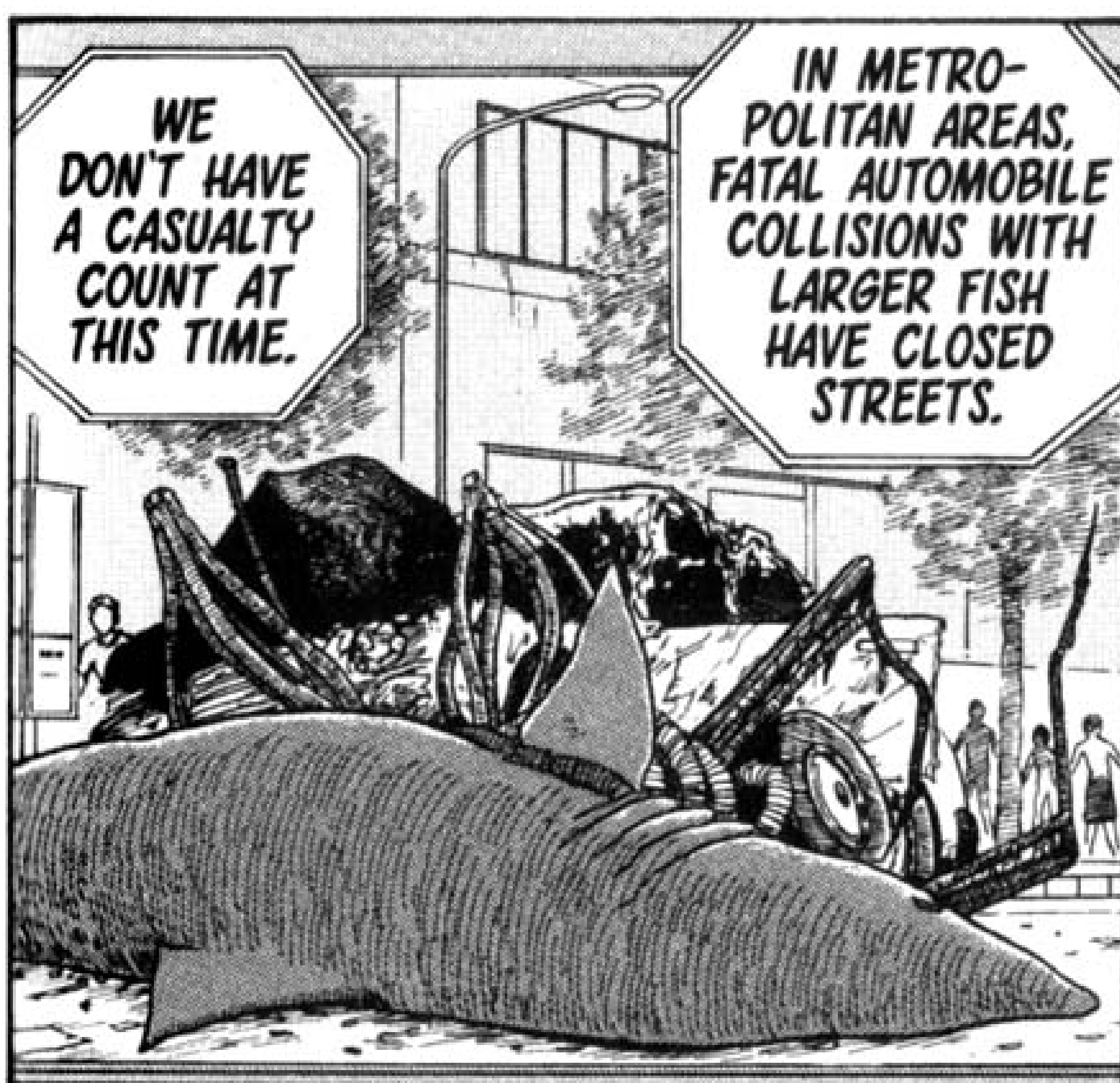
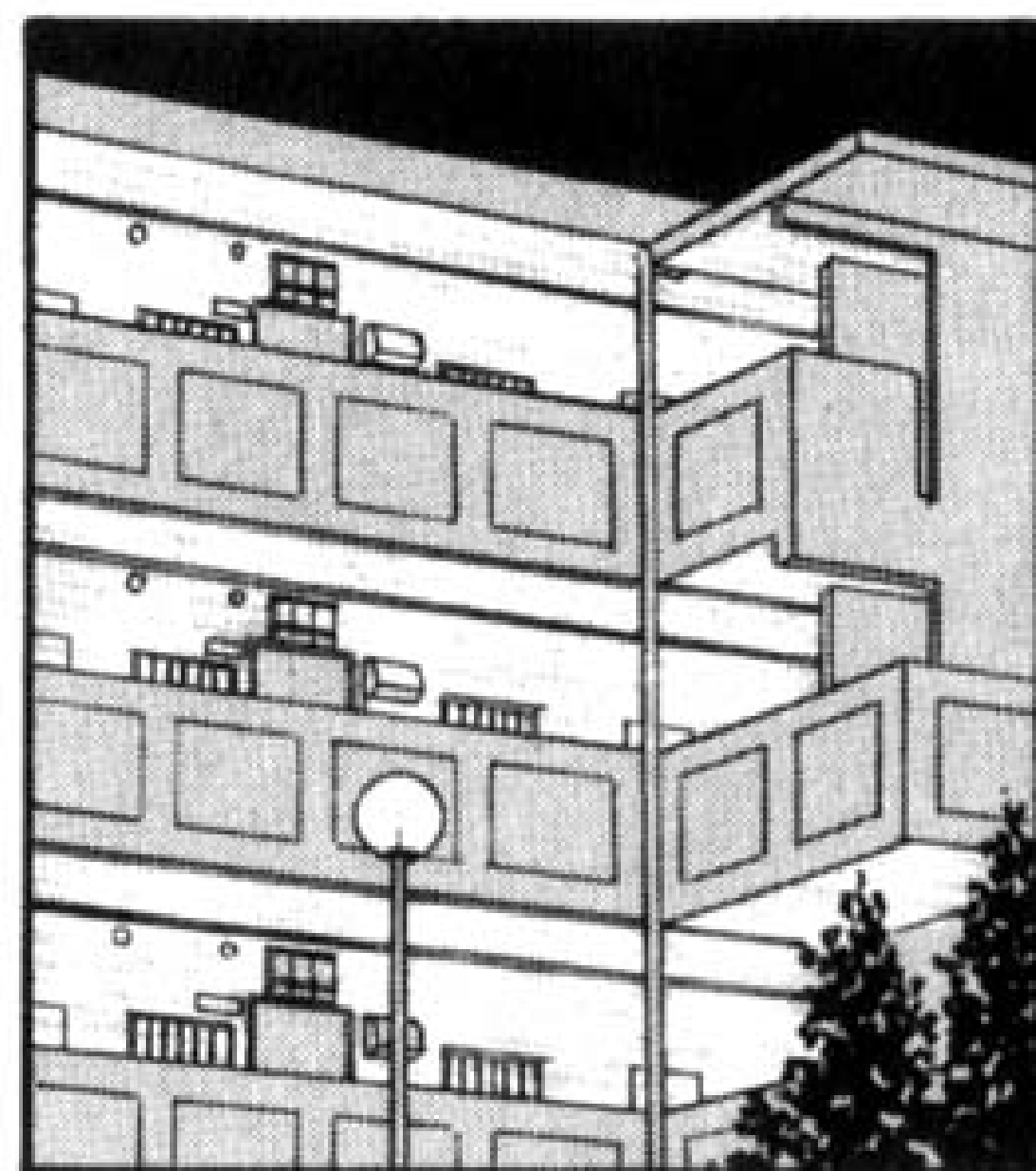
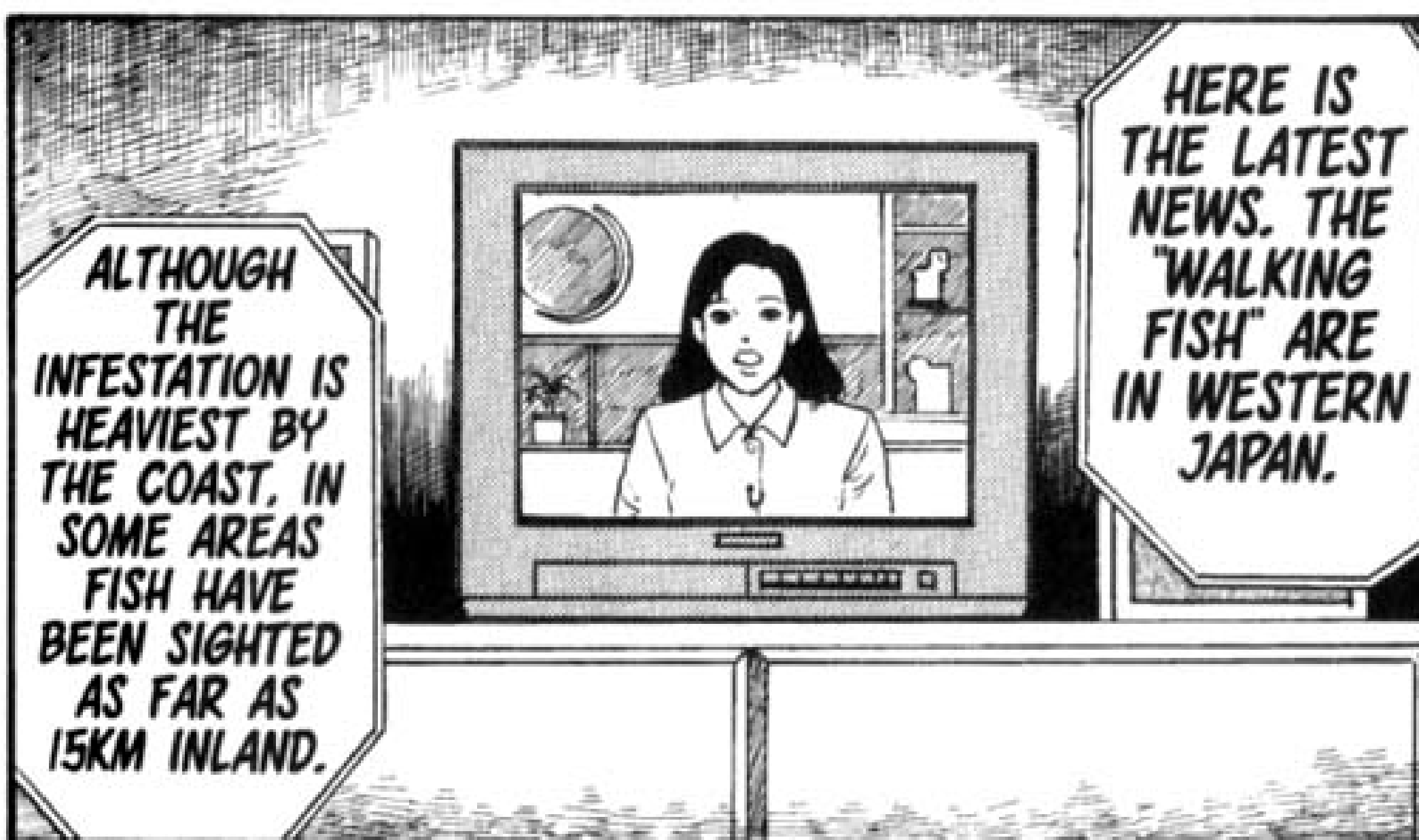
...WERE  
DEVELOPED  
DURING  
THE WAR,  
RIGHT!?

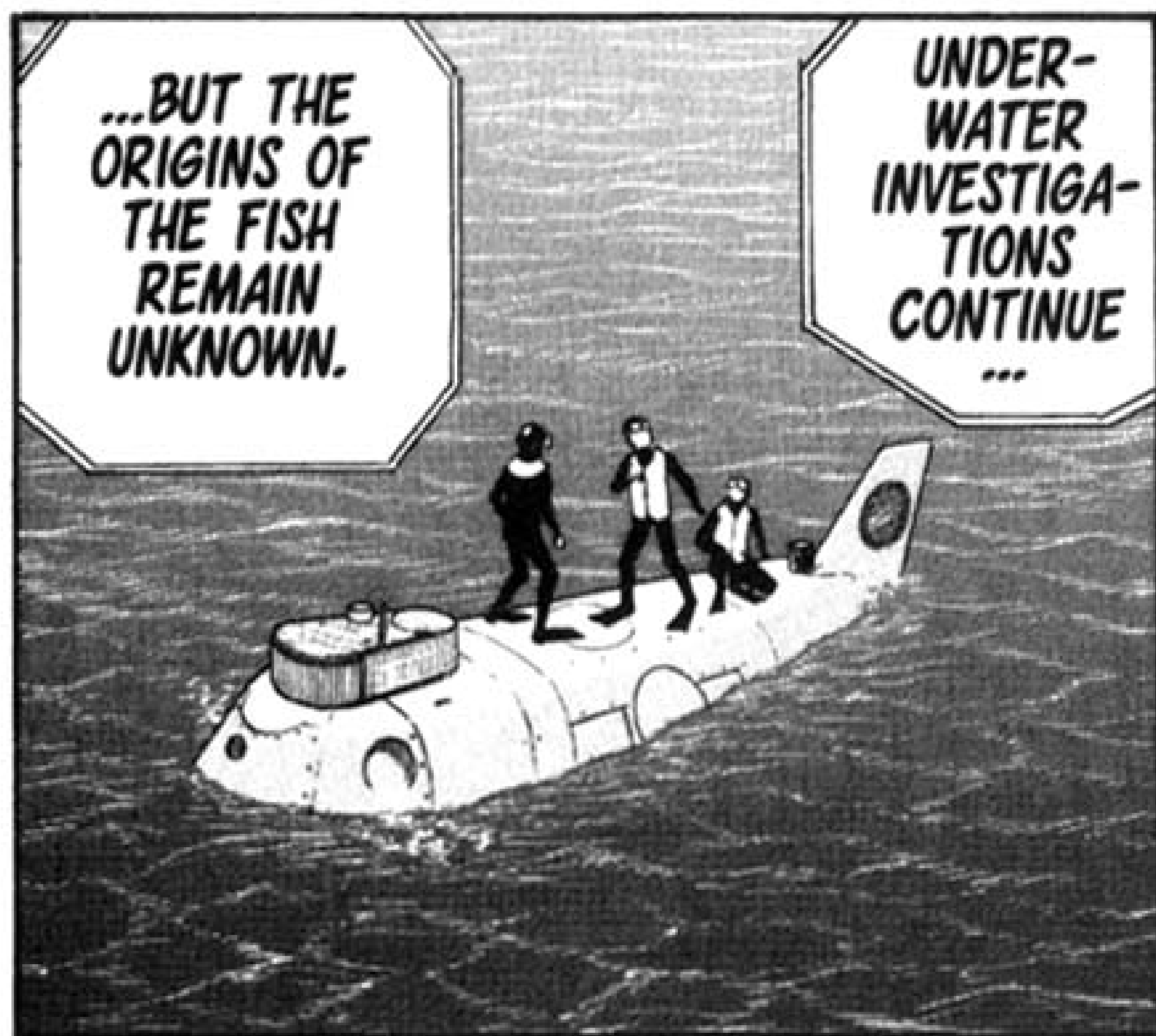
THE  
GERMS  
THAT  
INFECTED  
YOUR  
ARM...



B-BUT...  
IF THE GERMS  
ARE IN THE  
GAS, THEY  
MUST BE  
EVERYWHERE  
BY NOW!

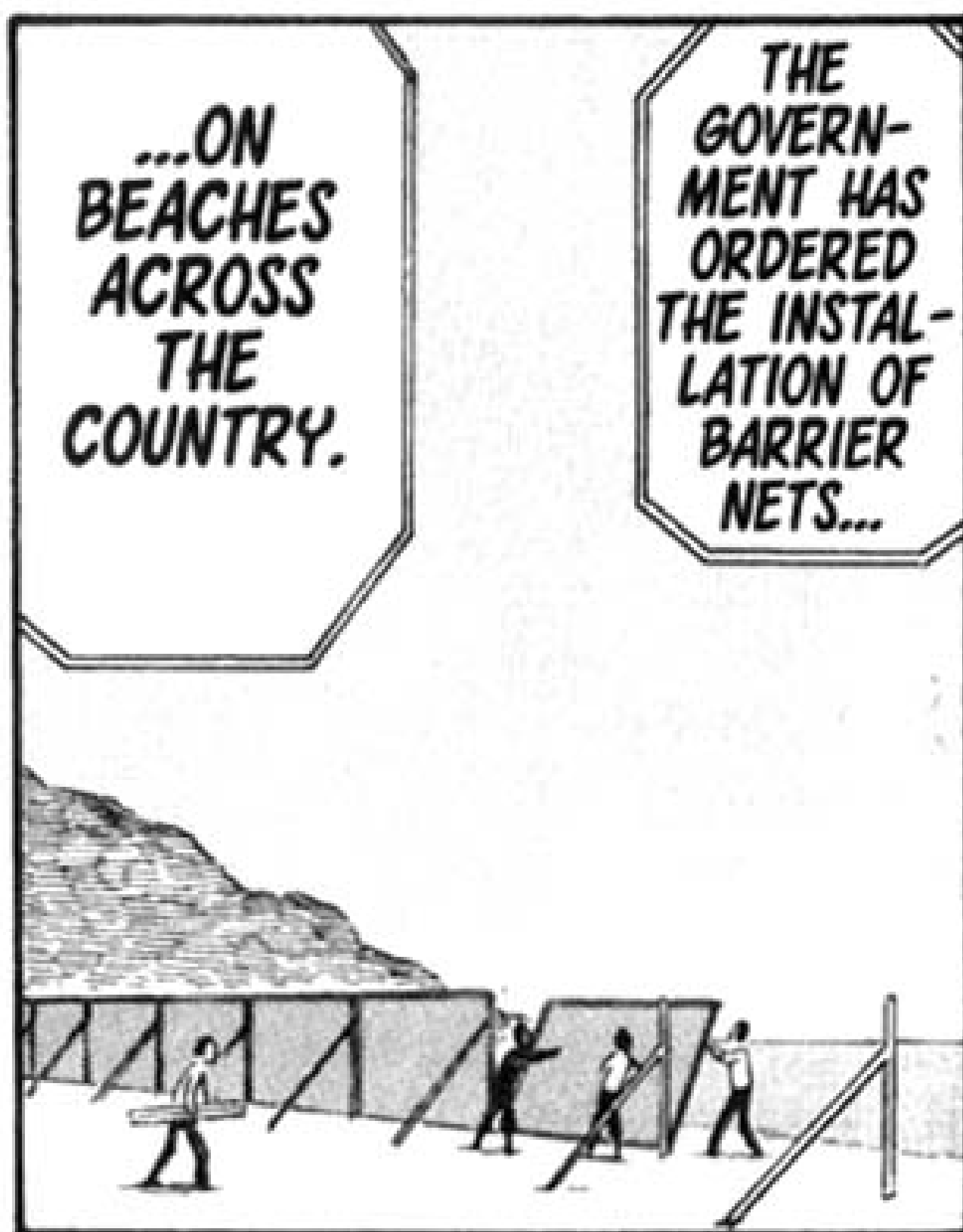
CALM  
DOWN, TADASHI.  
THAT WAS  
JUST SOME  
NONSENSE MY  
FATHER CAME  
UP WITH.





...BUT THE  
ORIGINS OF  
THE FISH  
REMAIN  
UNKNOWN.

UNDER-  
WATER  
INVESTIGA-  
TIONS  
CONTINUE  
...



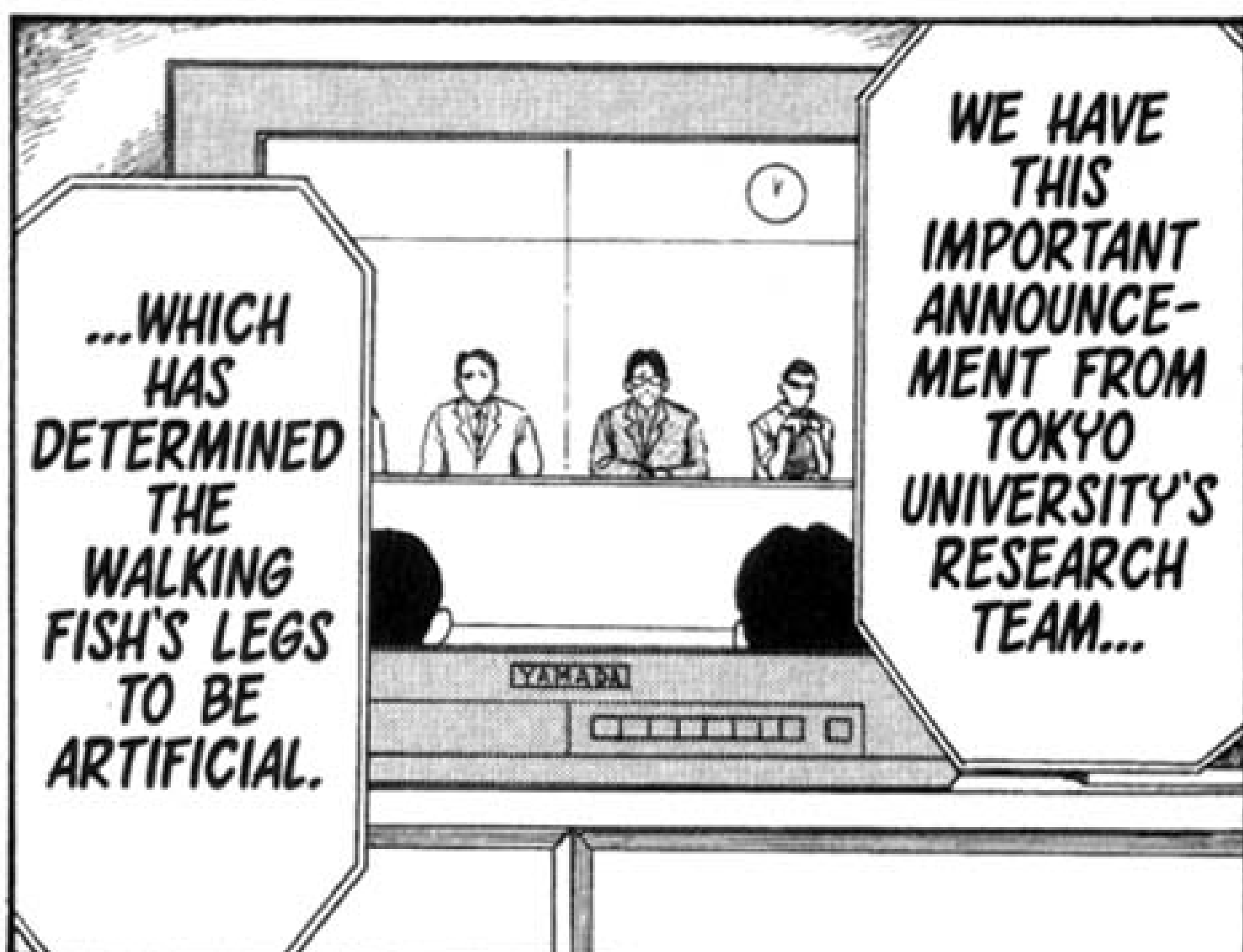
...ON  
BEACHES  
ACROSS  
THE  
COUNTRY.

THE  
GOVERN-  
MENT HAS  
ORDERED  
THE INSTAL-  
LATION OF  
BARRIER  
NETS...



WE  
AREN'T  
CLEAR  
ON ITS  
EXACT  
MECHANISM.

WELL  
...



...WHICH  
HAS  
DETERMINED  
THE  
WALKING  
FISH'S LEGS  
TO BE  
ARTIFICIAL.

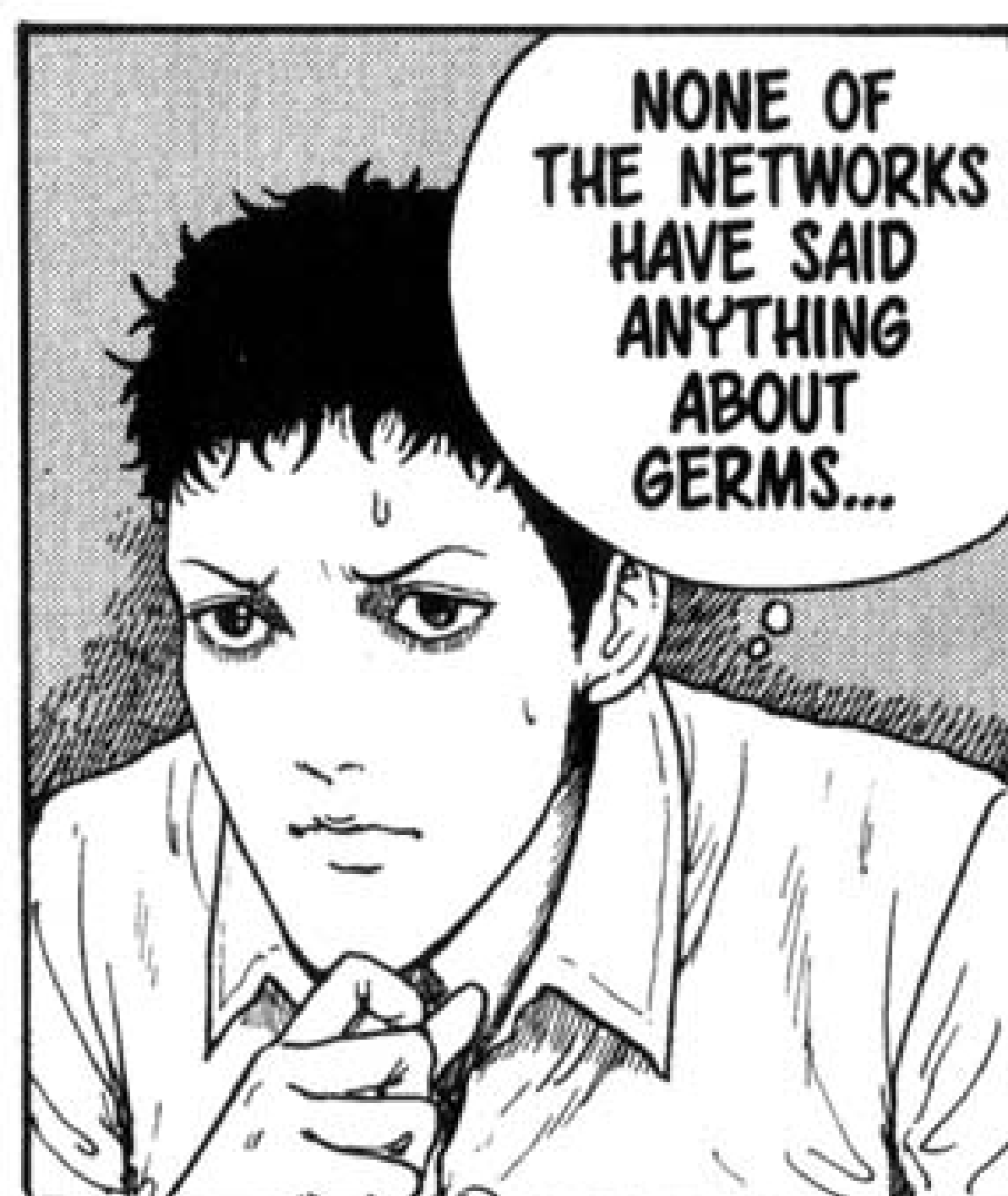
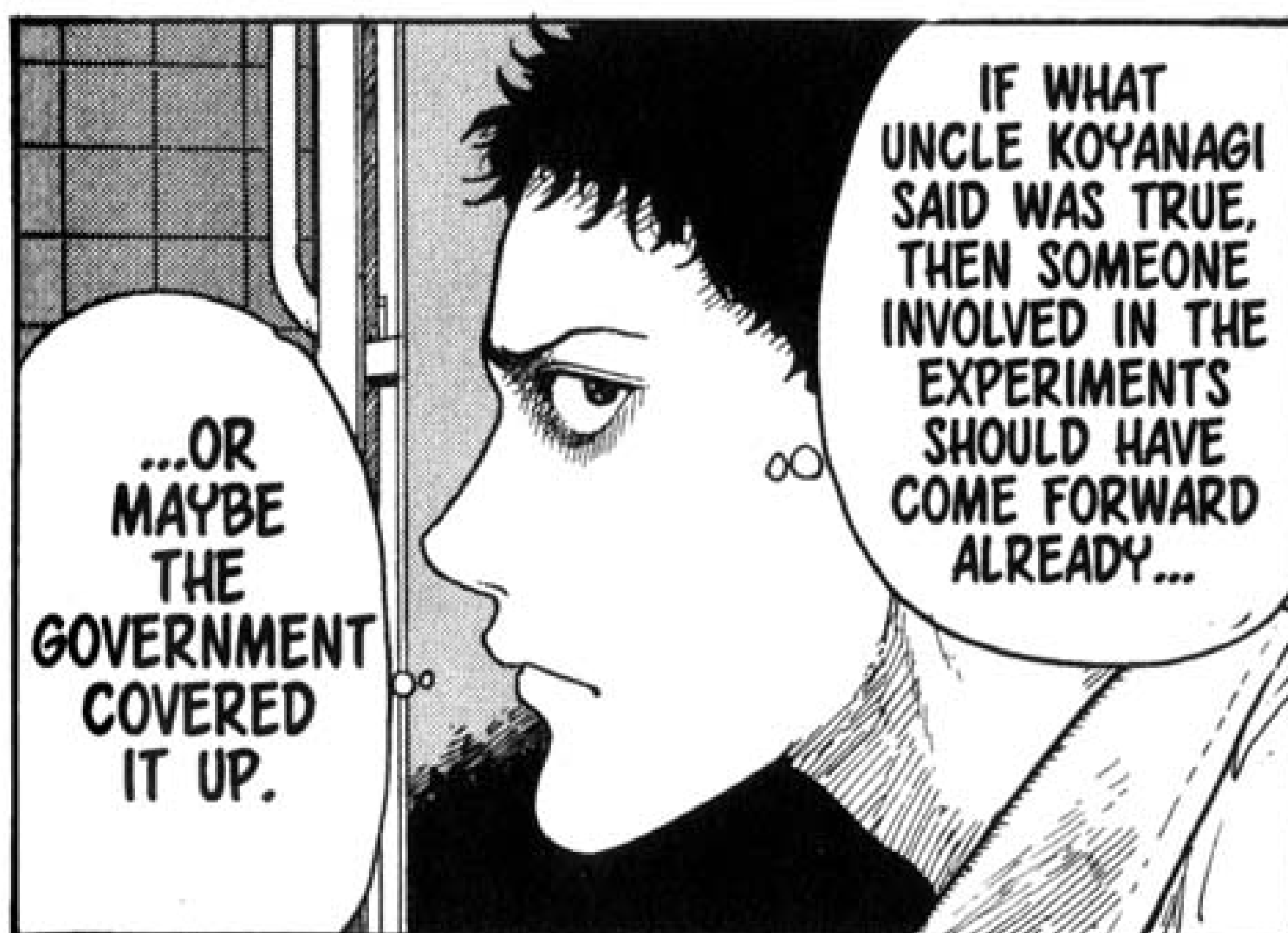
WE HAVE  
THIS  
IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCE-  
MENT FROM  
TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY'S  
RESEARCH  
TEAM...

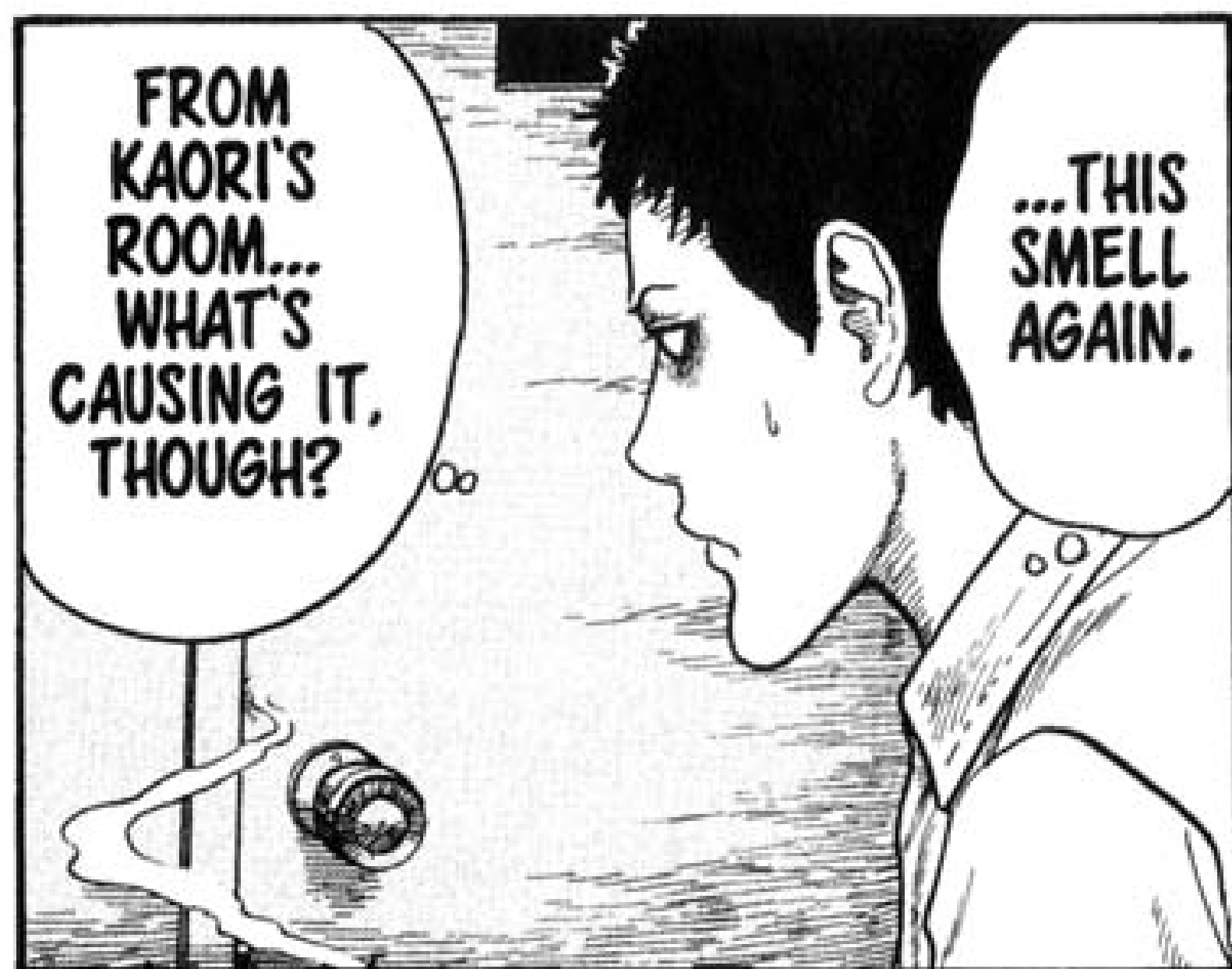
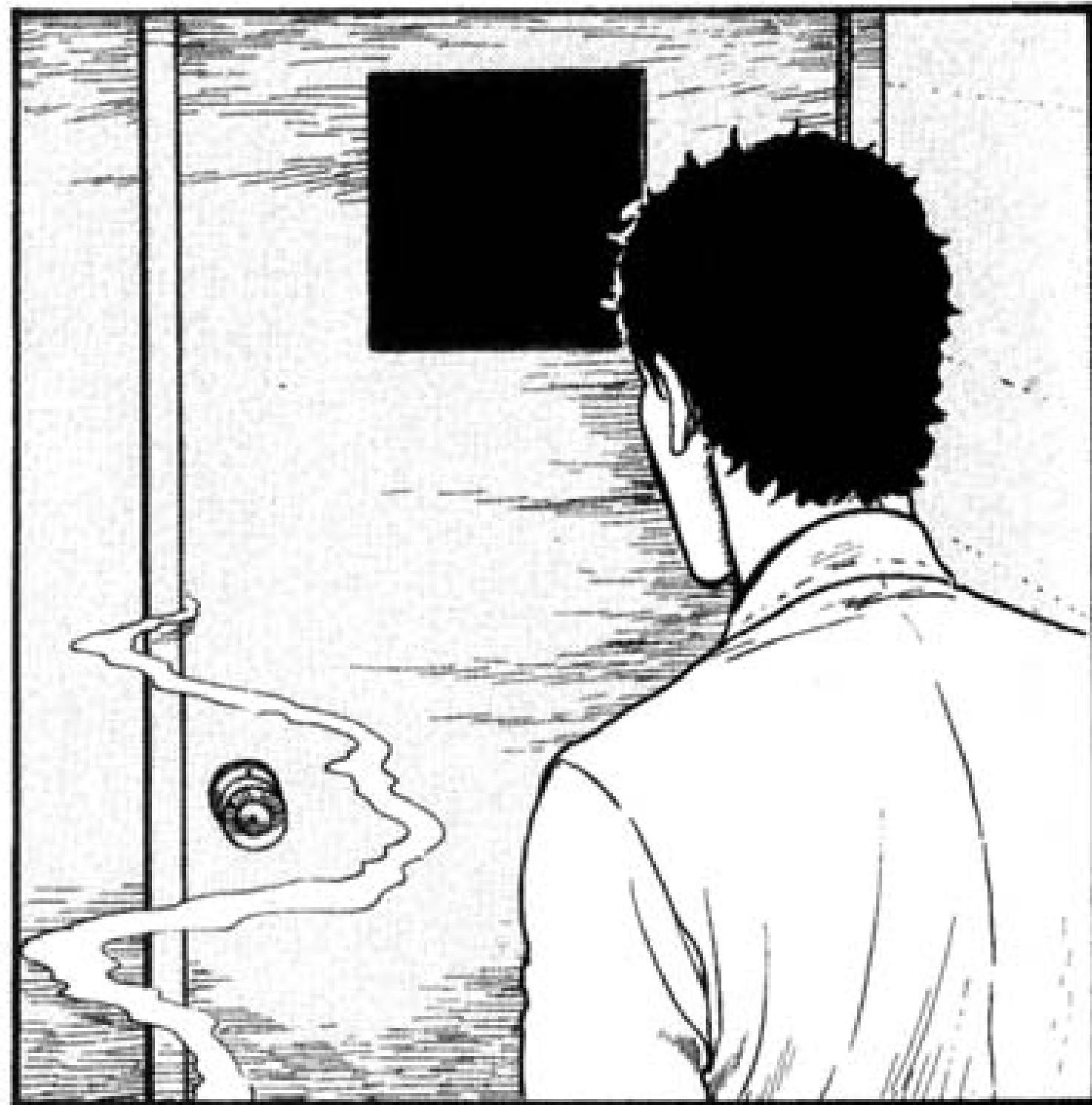
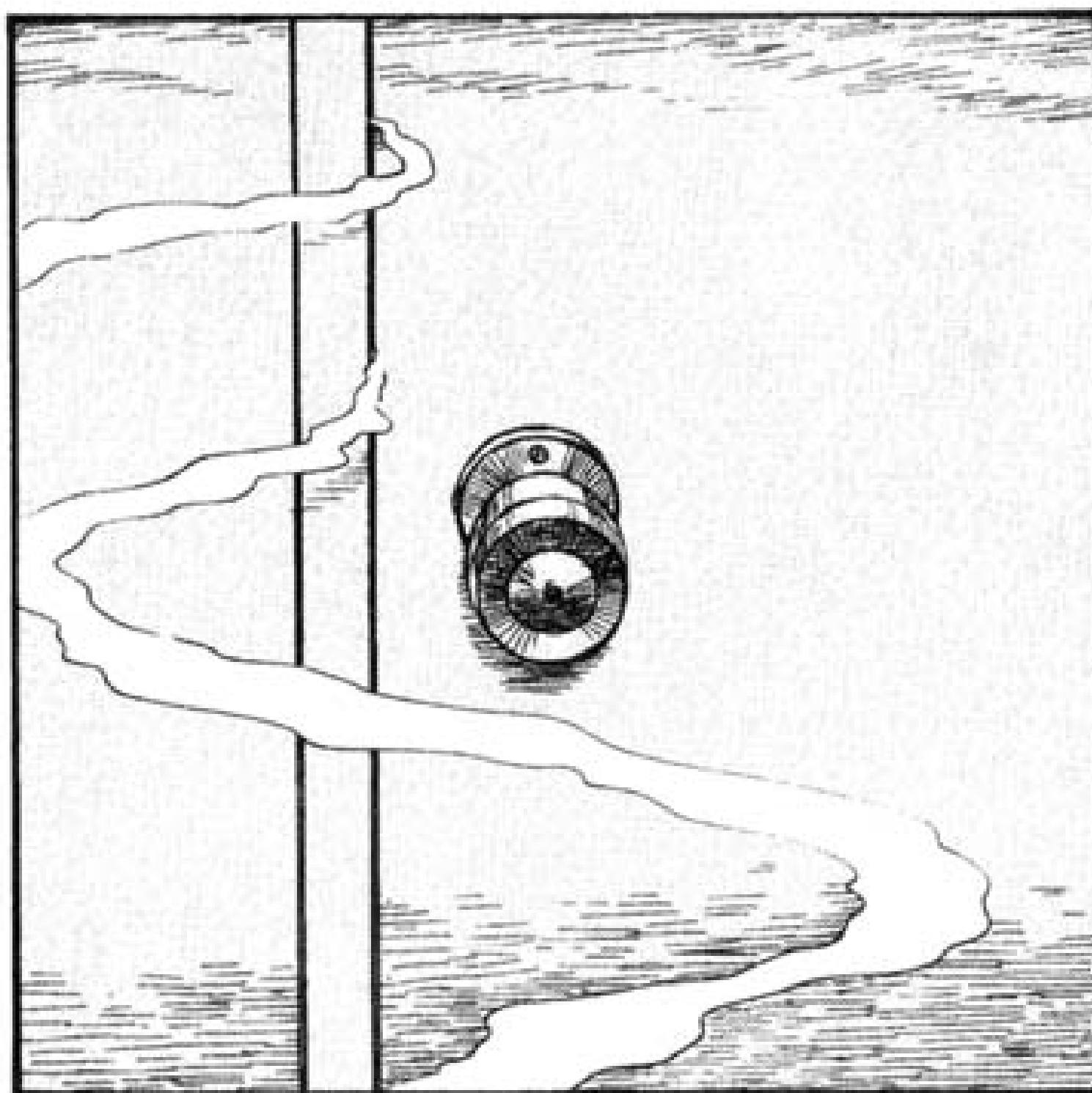


TWO  
OF OUR  
RESEARCHERS  
HAVE BEEN  
INJURED  
ALREADY.

WE ARE  
CONDUCTING  
A THOROUGH  
ANALYSIS,  
BUT THESE  
MACHINES  
ARE VERY  
DANGER-  
OUS.



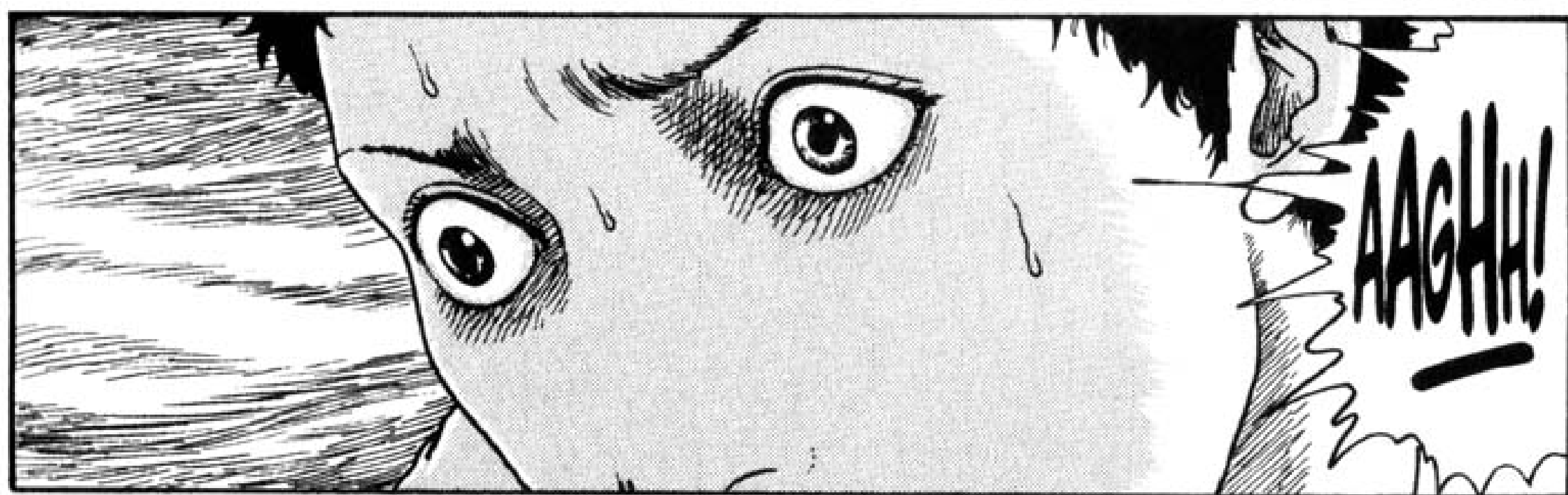


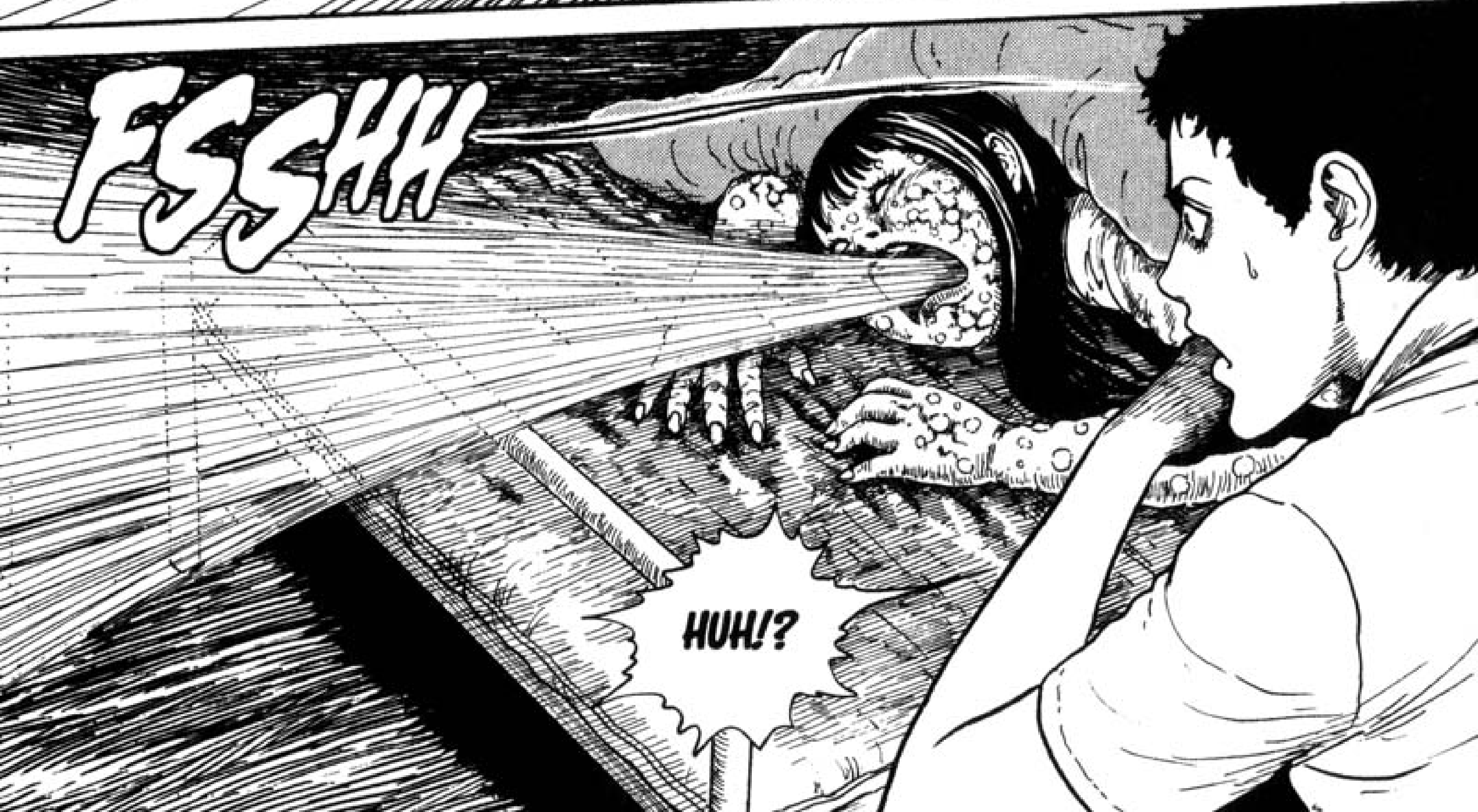












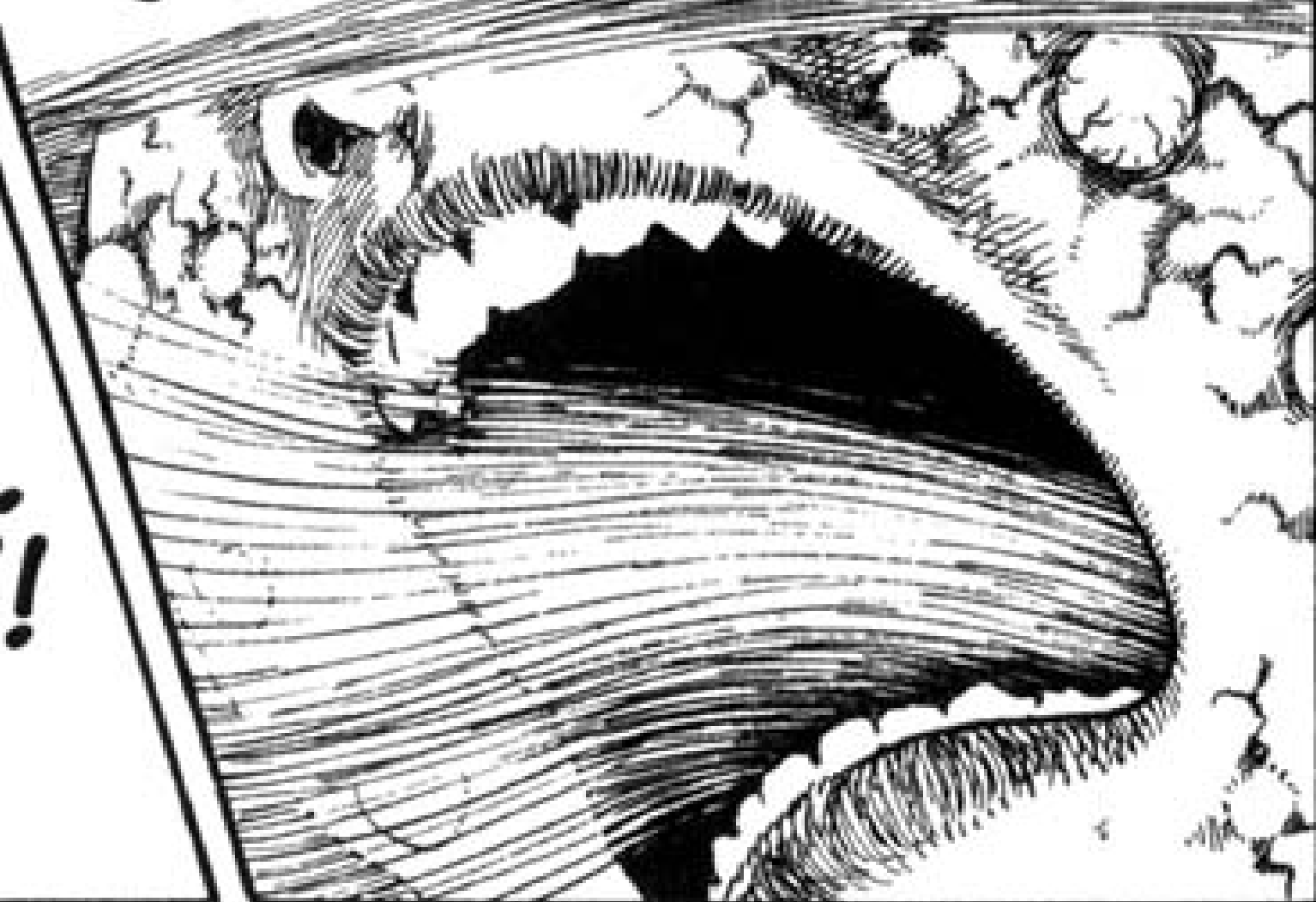




IT  
STINKS...  
WHY...  
WHY...  
!?

AHH...  
NO--!!

SHOOOOOOSH



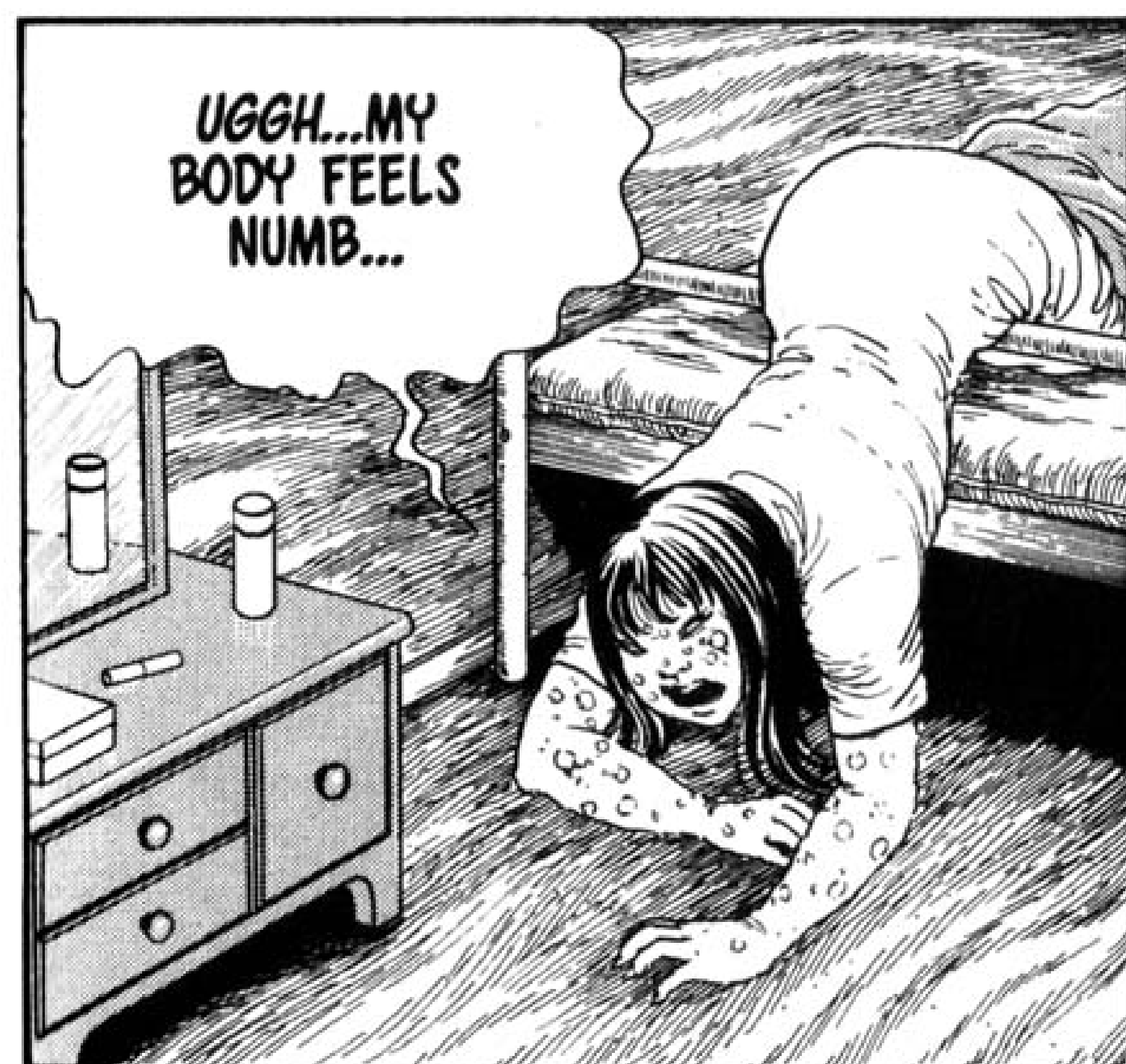
SHOW  
ME  
THE  
MIRROR  
!

NO  
!!



KAORI...  
FORGET  
ABOUT THE  
MIRROR.  
LET'S GO  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL  
!

UNNH...MY  
FACE FEELS  
FUNNY...TADASHI,  
BRING ME THE  
MIRROR...



UGGH...MY  
BODY FEELS  
NUMB...



FINE,  
I'LL LOOK  
FOR  
MYSELF.

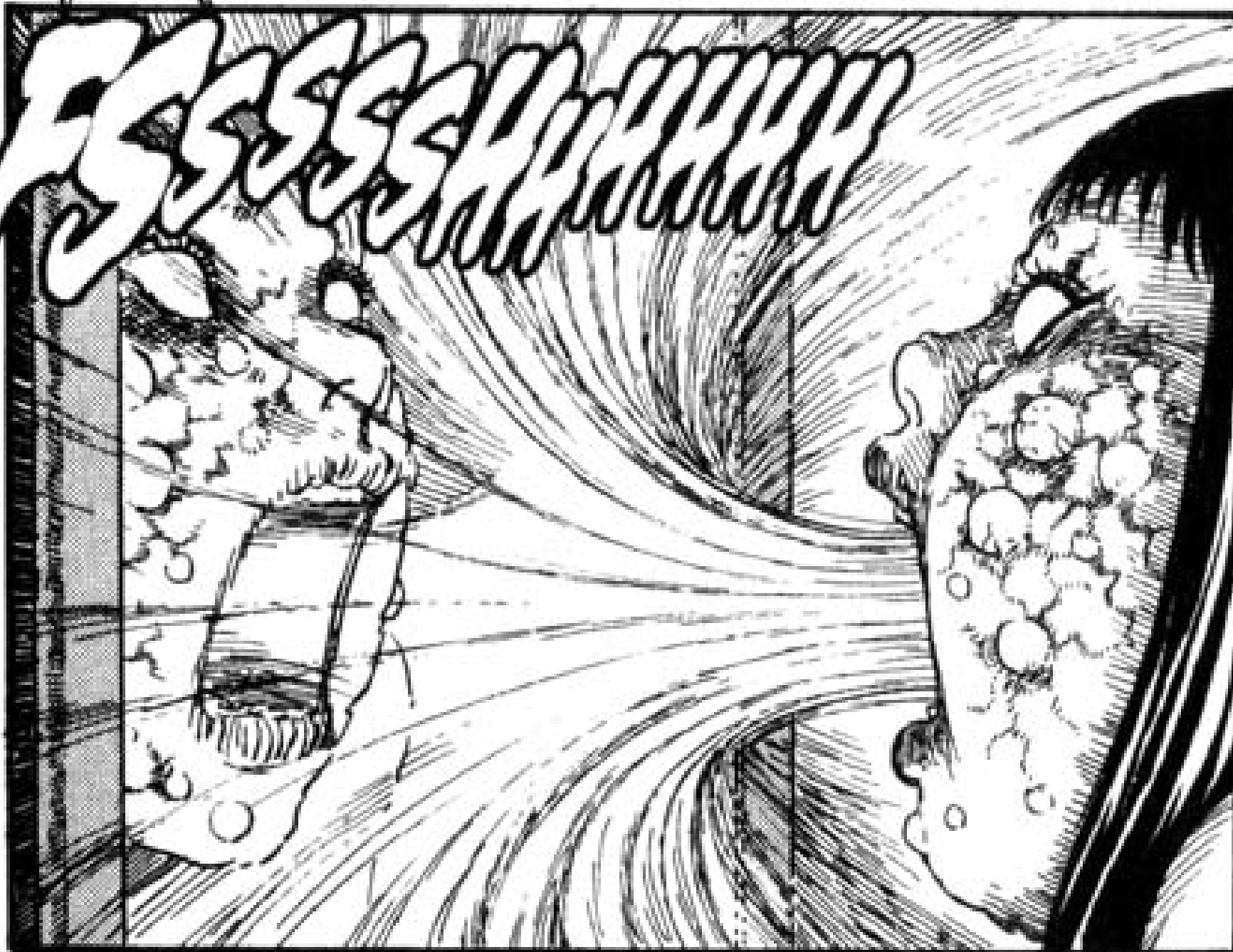
**E E E Y A A A**



**CHAK**

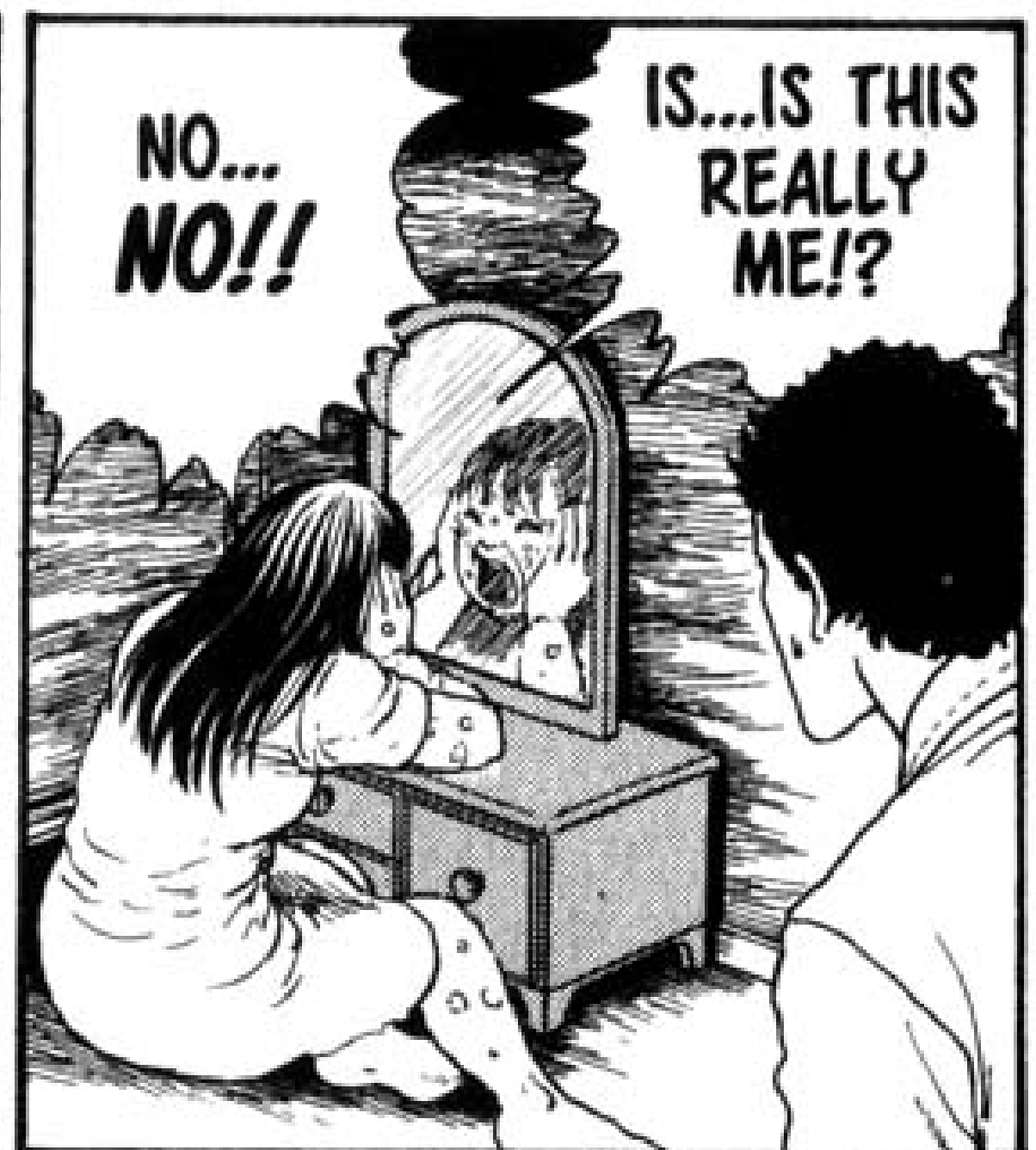


**FSSSSHHHHHH**



**NO... NO!!**

**IS...IS THIS REALLY ME!?**

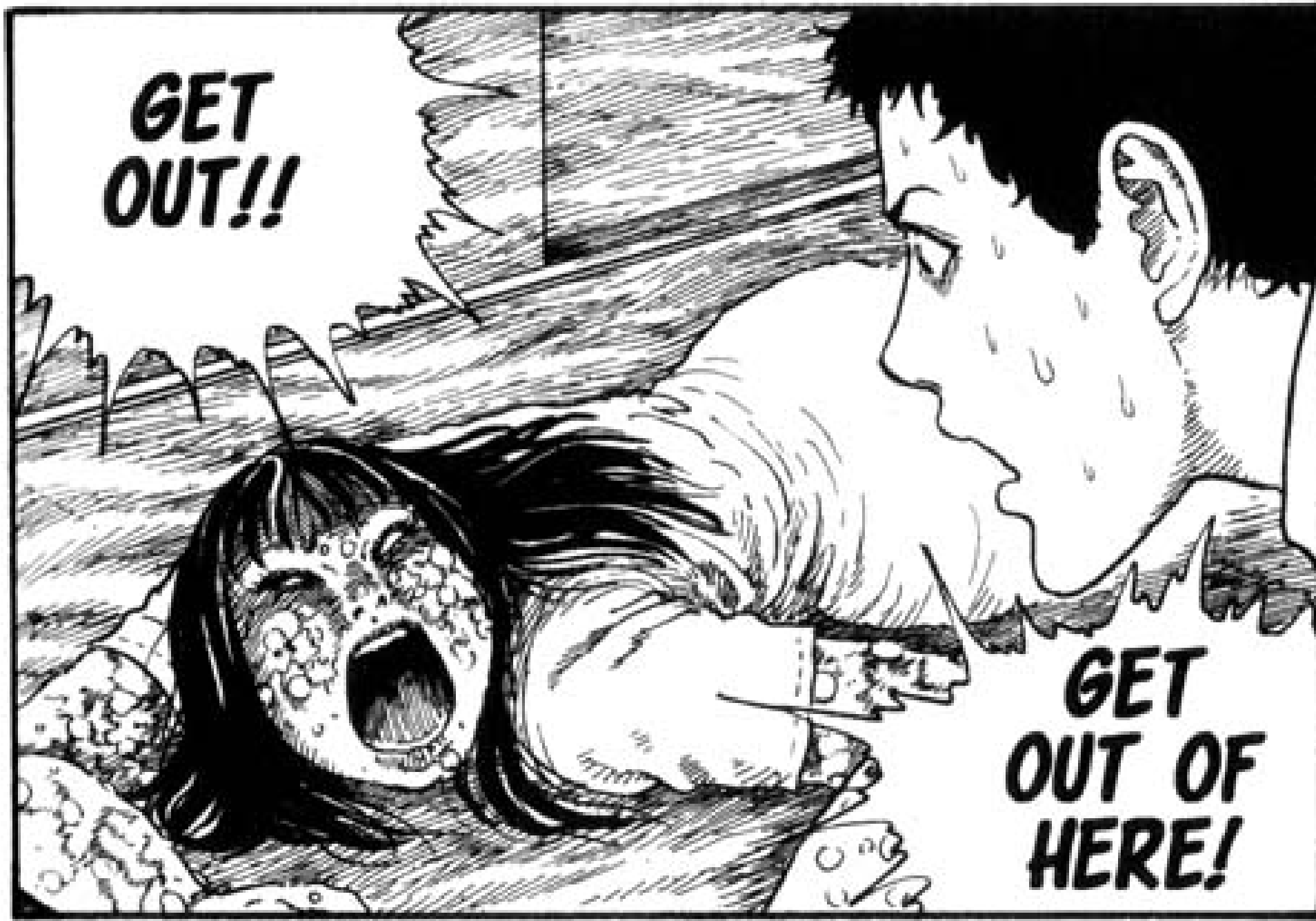


**I SMELL LIKE THOSE MONSTERS !!**

**FSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH**

**AHH... THAT SMELL... IT'S THE SMELL OF THOSE MONSTERS !!**







**THE  
WALKING  
FISH HAVE  
ENTERED  
THE KANTO  
AREA!**

**WE  
INTERRUPT  
THIS PROGRAM  
TO BRING  
YOU THIS  
EMERGENCY  
REPORT!!**

**IN  
ADDITION TO  
SURUGA BAY AND  
SAGAMI BAY,  
THEY ARE NOW  
SWARMING THE  
KUJUKURIHAMA  
AREA AS  
WELL!!**

**THE  
BARRIER  
NETS HAVE  
PROVEN TO BE  
COMPLETELY  
INEFFECTIVE  
IN HOLDING  
BACK THE  
INVASION!**

**THEY  
ARE  
SWARMING...  
THIS USED  
TO BE A  
BEACH!**

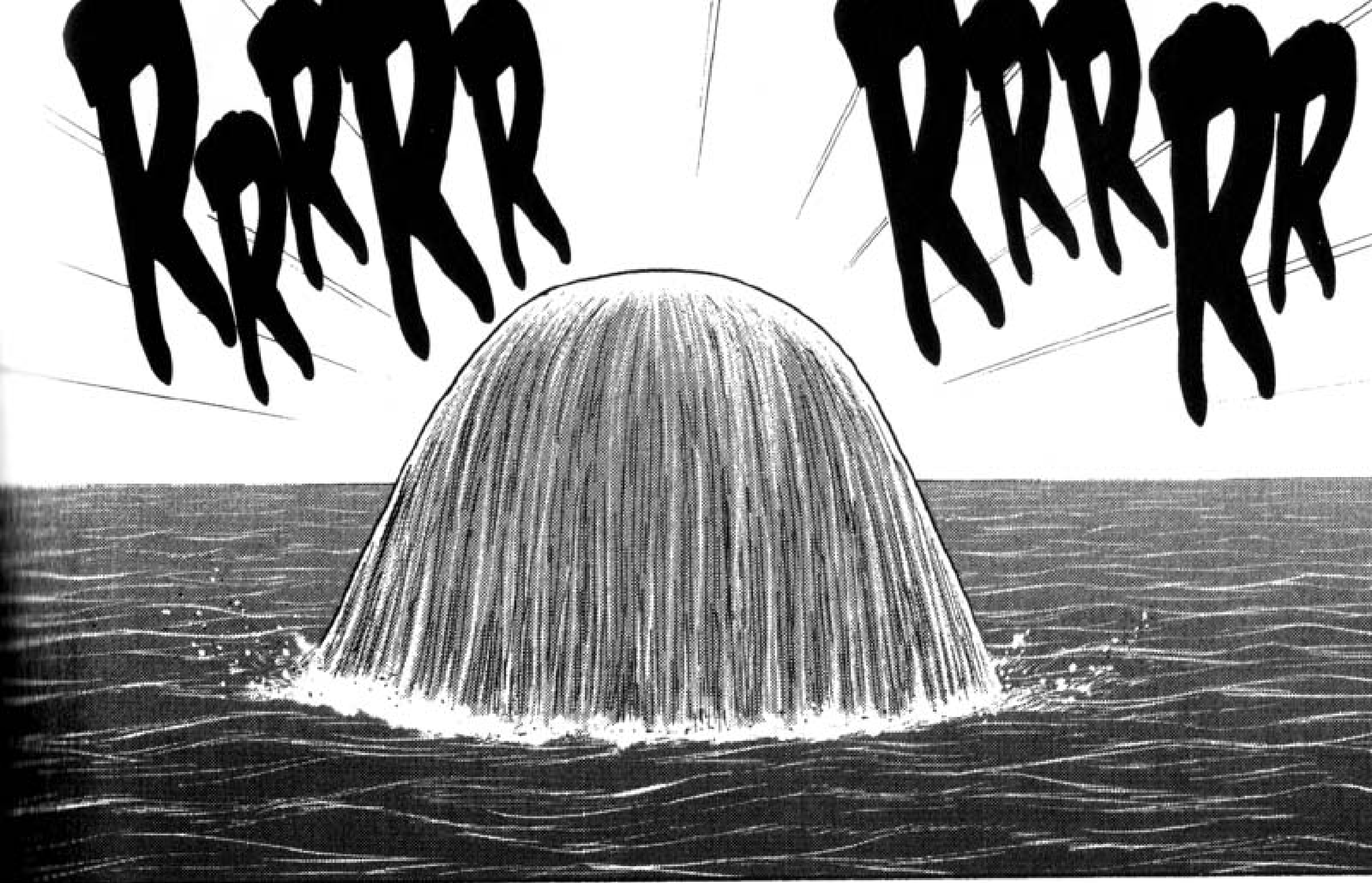
**WE  
HAVE  
THIS LIVE  
BROADCAST!**

**9 / The Death-  
Stench Invades,  
Part 1**



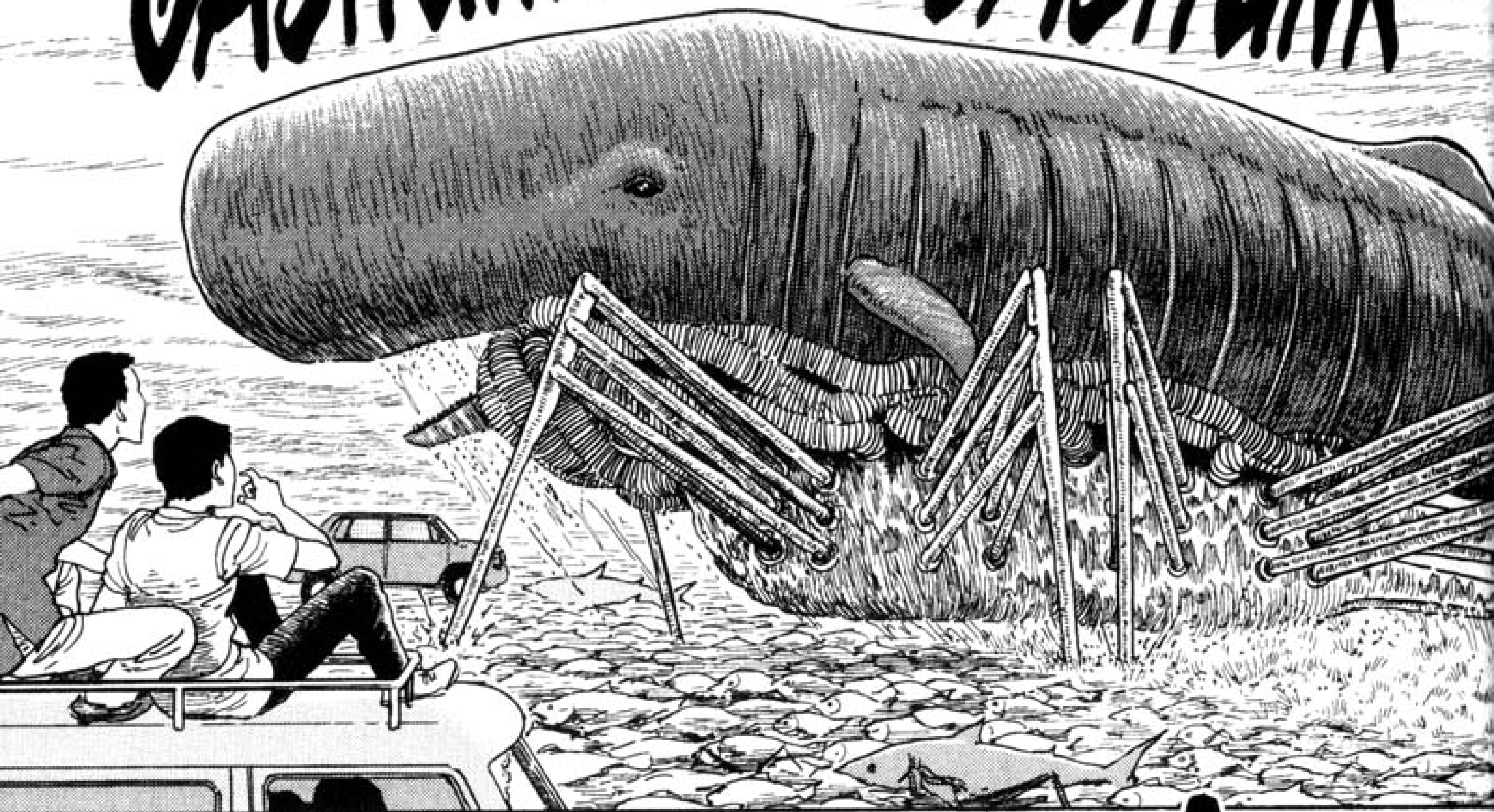






**GASHUNK**

**GASHUNK**



**WHUDD**

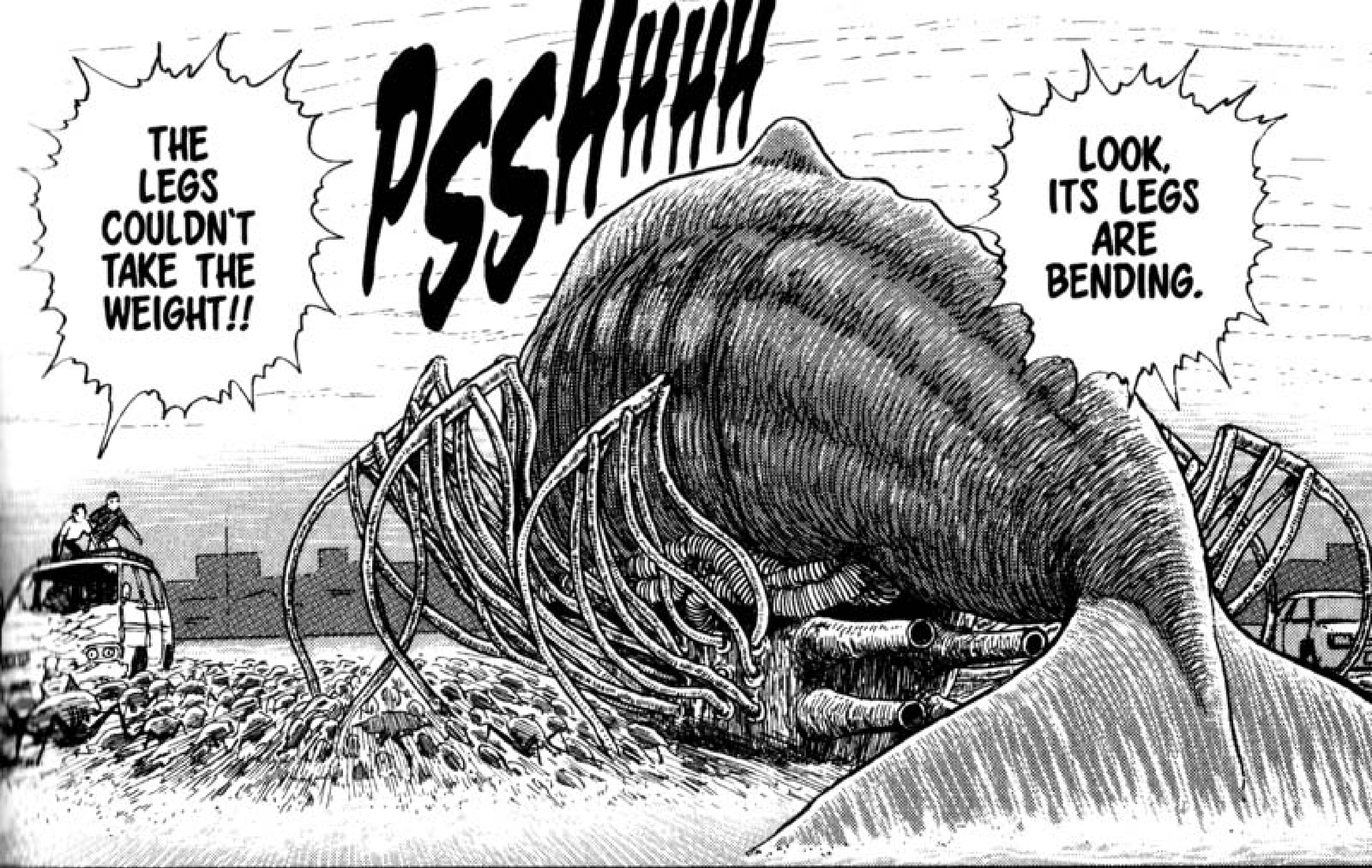


**KKK KRIII!**



**BWANG**





THE  
LEGS  
COULDN'T  
TAKE THE  
WEIGHT!!

PSSSHHHH

LOOK,  
ITS LEGS  
ARE  
BENDING.



MY  
CAMERA  
FELL OFF THE  
TRUCK!!

HEY,  
DID YOU  
GET  
THAT?

WHAT!?!  
YOU  
IDIOT!!



WHAT  
...

WHAT  
THE HELL  
DO THEY  
WANT?



RRR

THE  
CAR  
WON'T  
MOVE!

RRRRRRRR

WE'LL NEVER GET  
IT OUT FROM UNDER  
THOSE FISH! THEY  
KEEP COMING! LET'S  
GET BACK TO TOWN!

Y-  
YOU  
IDIOT  
!!



...OF THE  
EMERGENCY  
OFFICE OF  
RELIEF  
COORDINA-  
TION...

oooooooo

WEEEEoooo

THE  
GOVERN-  
MENT HAS  
ANNOUNCED  
THE FORM-  
ATION...







BE  
HONEST  
!!

YOU  
MUST THINK  
I'M  
DISGUSTING!



AND I  
CAN'T EVEN  
MOVE  
RIGHT...

THESE  
UGLY  
BOILS  
ALL OVER  
MY  
BODY...



DON'T  
YOU  
LIE  
TO  
ME!

YOU'LL  
FIND A  
PRETTIER  
WOMAN WHO  
DOESN'T  
SMELL,  
RIGHT!?

DON'T  
LIE!!  
YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
GET RID  
OF ME,  
RIGHT!?



WH-WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?




KAORI...

OH,  
TADASHI...  
PLEASE  
DON'T  
LEAVE  
ME.



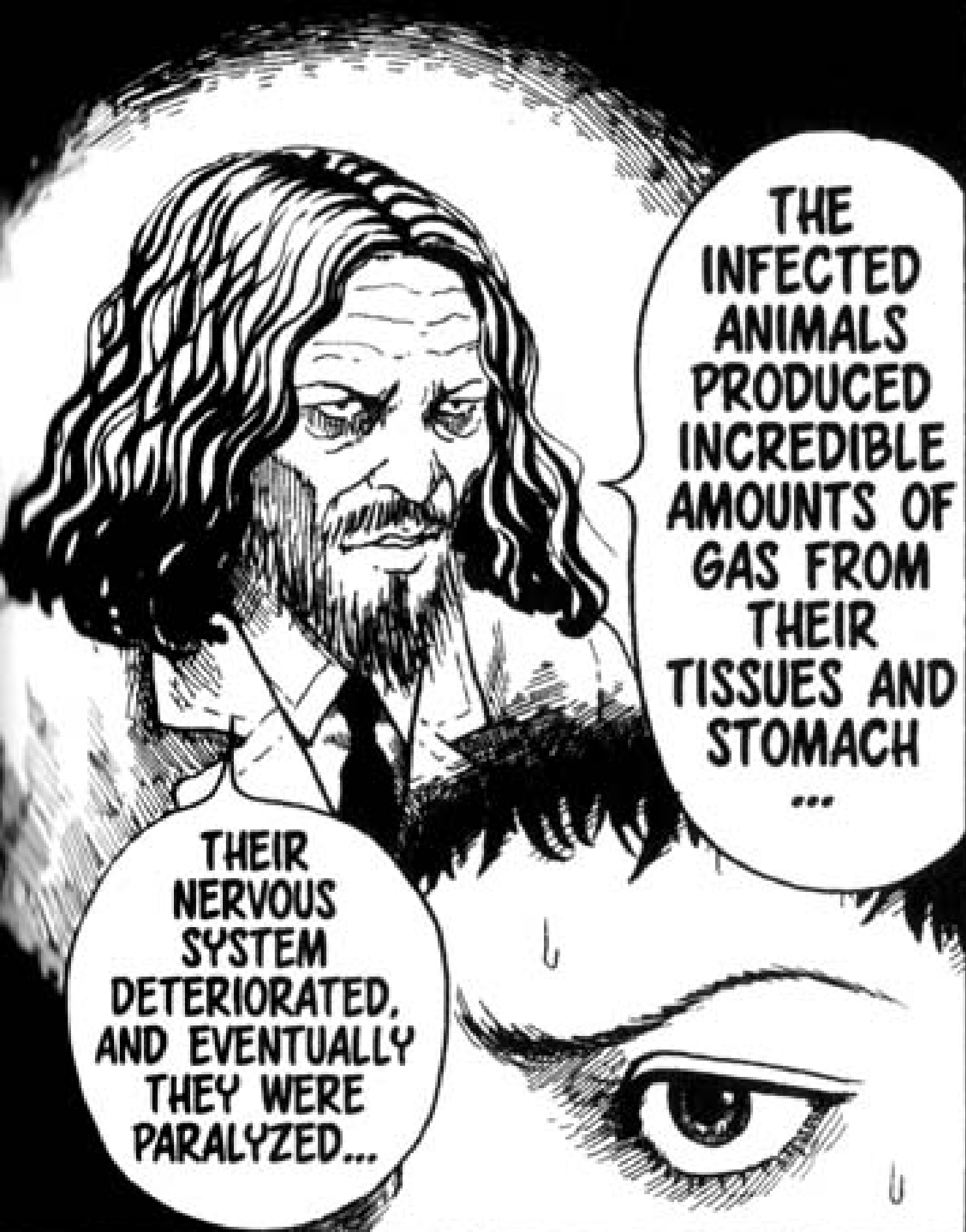
SHE'S  
PRETTY!  
YOU  
LIKE  
HER,  
DON'T  
YOU!?

THAT'S  
RIGHT...  
LIKE  
YOUR  
UNCLE'S  
LAB  
ASSISTANT...



ENOUGH!  
YOU'RE  
MAKING  
ME  
MAD!



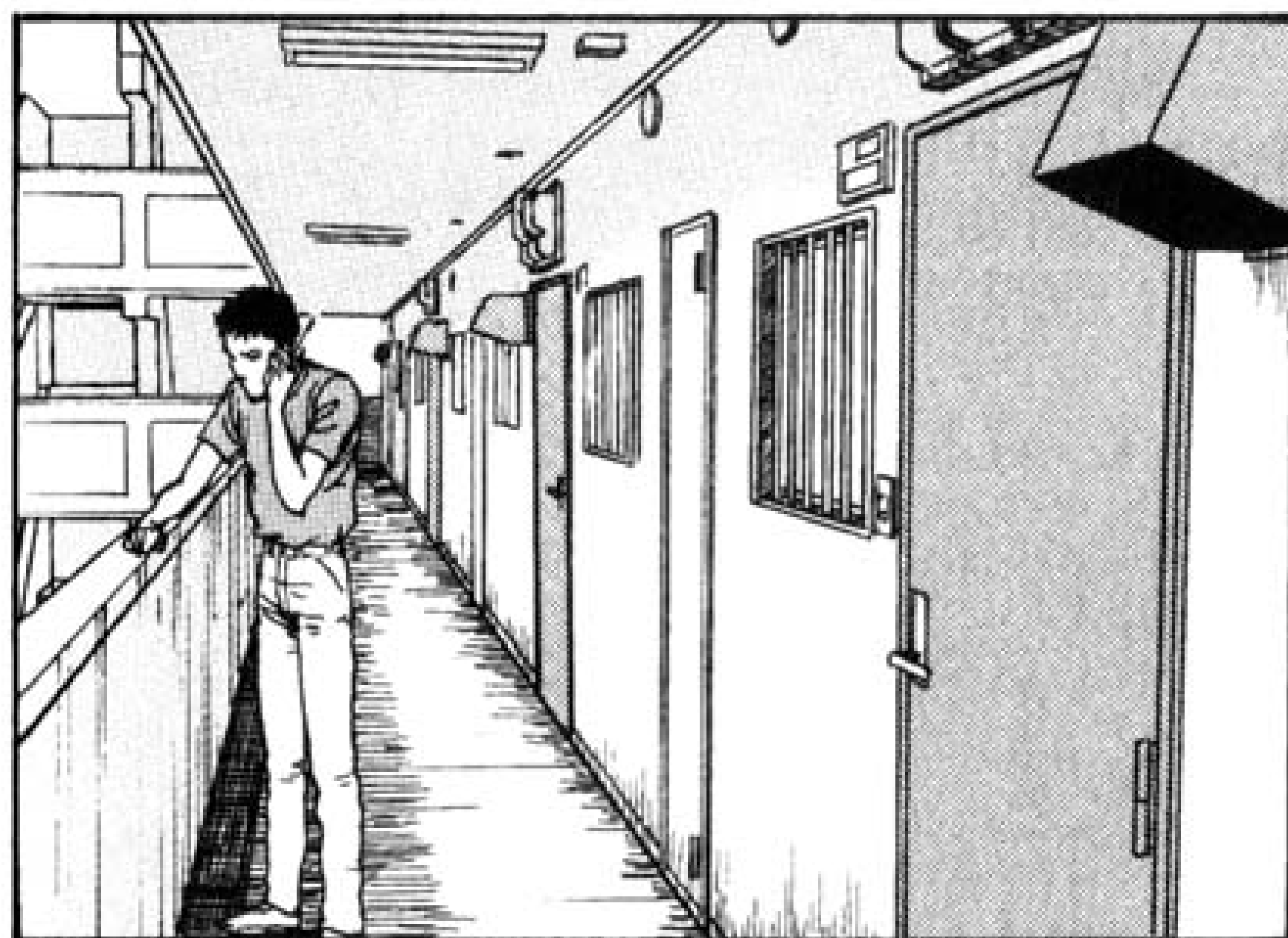


THE  
INFECTED  
ANIMALS  
PRODUCED  
INCREDIBLE  
AMOUNTS OF  
GAS FROM  
THEIR  
TISSUES AND  
STOMACH  
...

THEIR  
NERVOUS  
SYSTEM  
DETERIORATED,  
AND EVENTUALLY  
THEY WERE  
PARALYZED...



WHAT  
CAN I  
DO...?



SO  
PRETTY  
SOON...  
KAORI  
WILL...



B-BUT I  
NEED TO  
TALK TO  
HIM!!  
PLEASE  
LET ME  
TALK TO  
HIM!!

I'M  
SORRY,  
BUT HE'S  
TOO BUSY  
WITH HIS  
RESEARCH.  
HE CAN'T  
TAKE YOUR  
CALL.



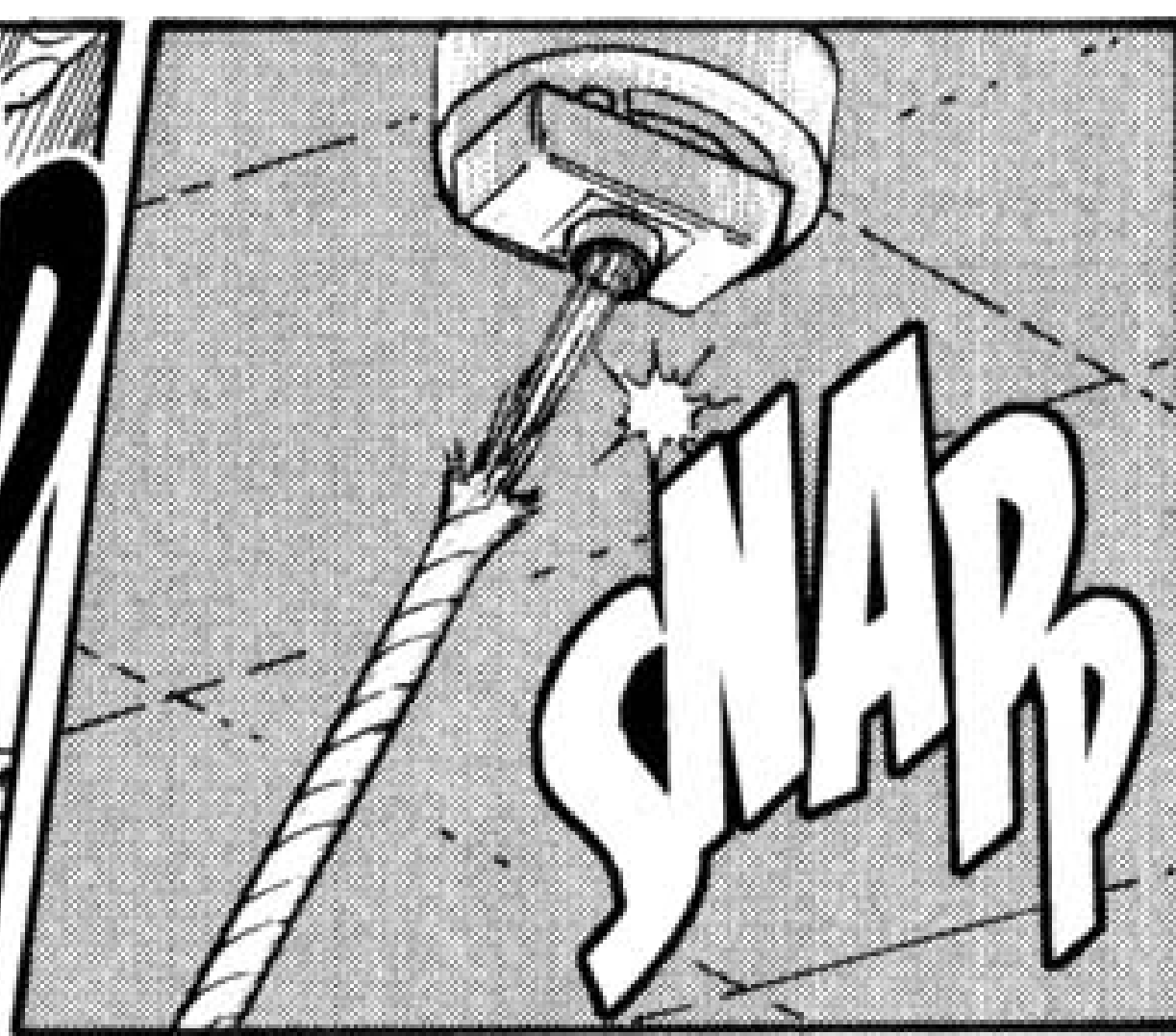
MS.  
YOSHIYAMA?  
THIS IS  
TADASHI.  
CAN I  
SPEAK TO MY  
UNCLE?

KOYANAGI  
LABORA-  
TORY.









GOT  
TO  
CALL  
AN  
AMBU-  
LANCE  
!



GOT  
TO...

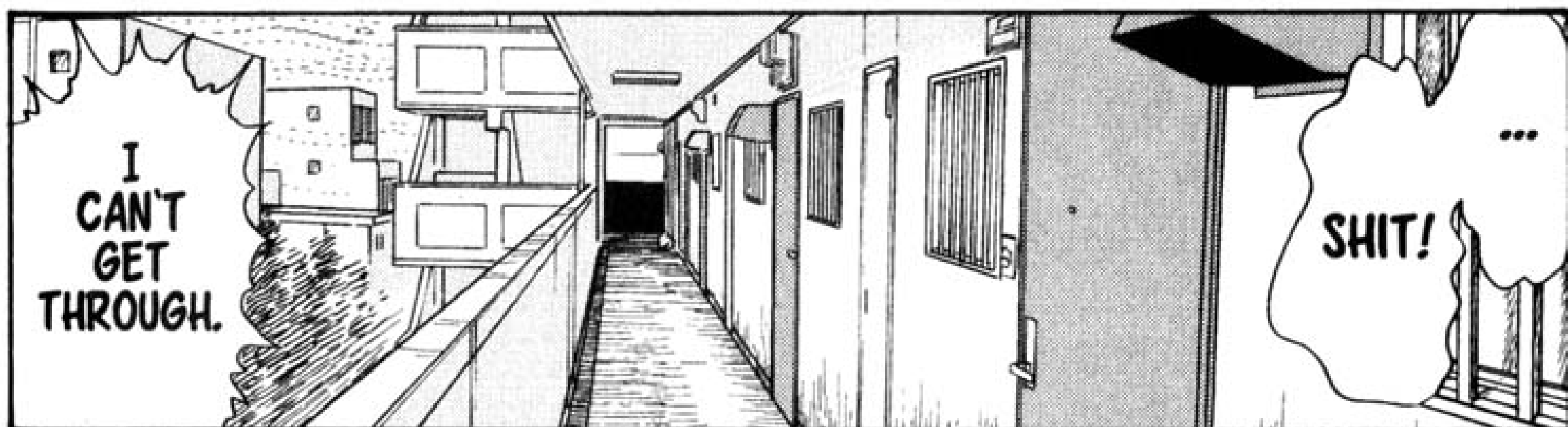


KAORI  
!!



KAORI  
!!

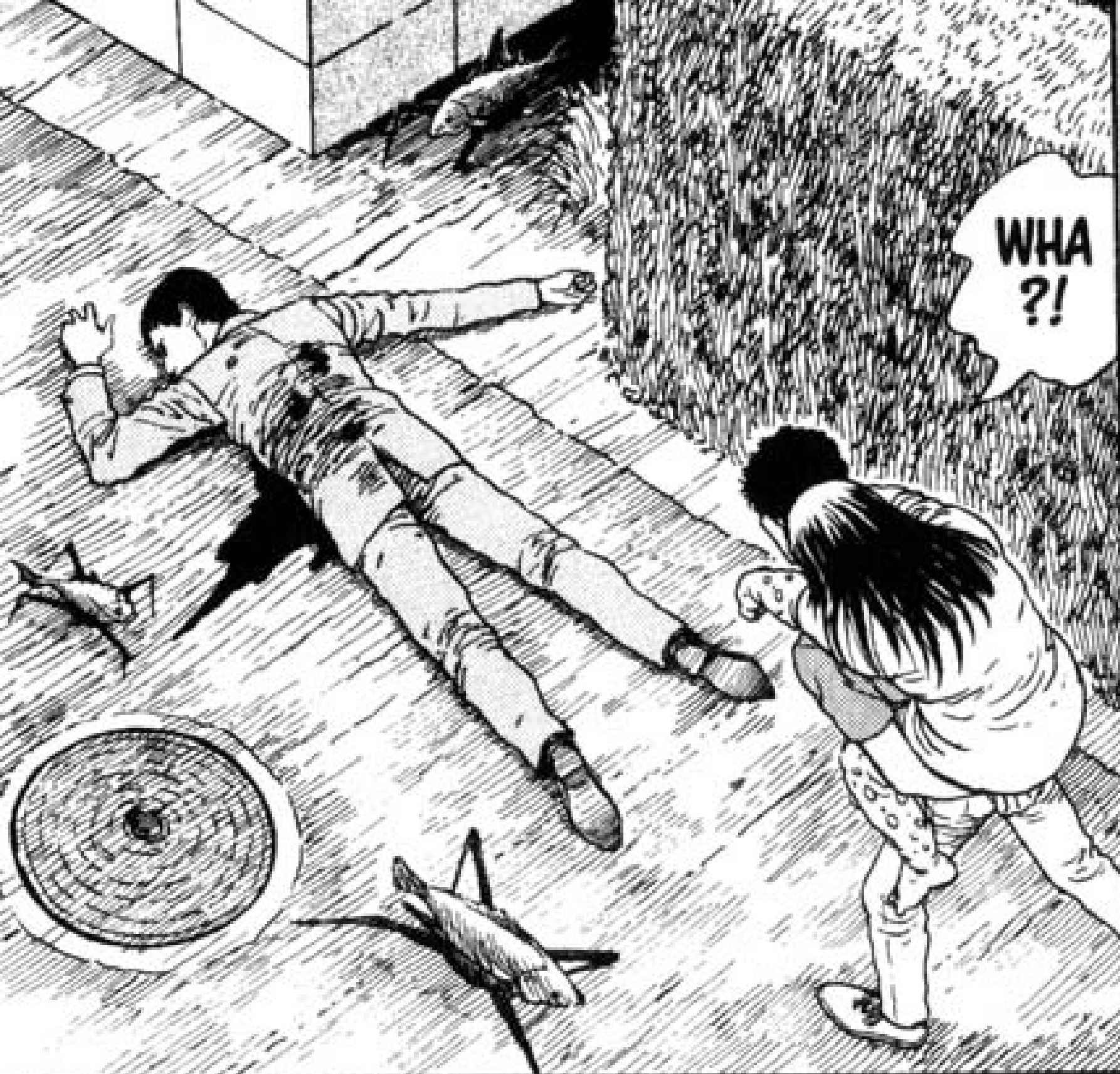
I  
CAN'T  
GET  
THROUGH.



...

SHIT!







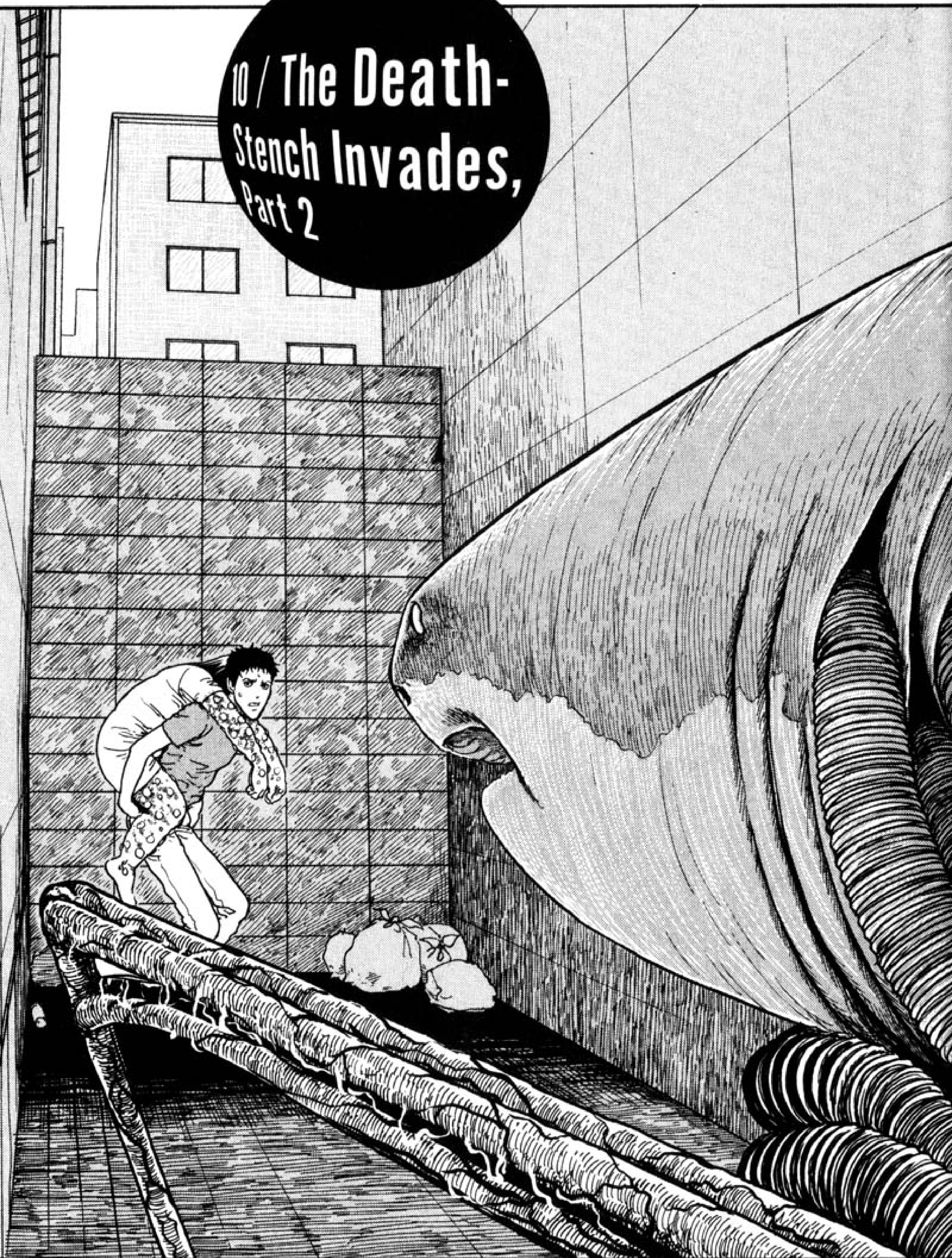


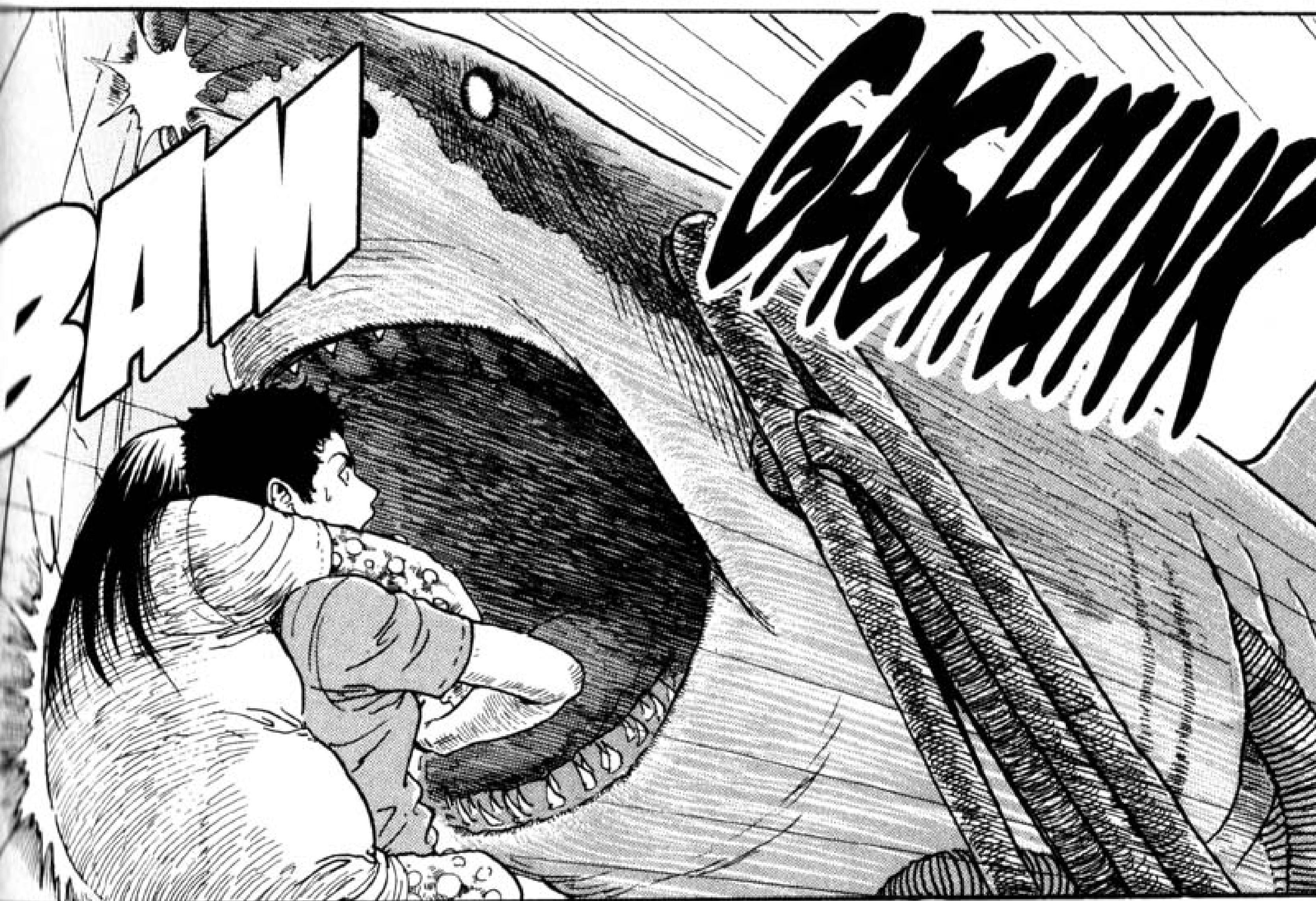






10 / The Death-  
Stench Invades,  
Part 2



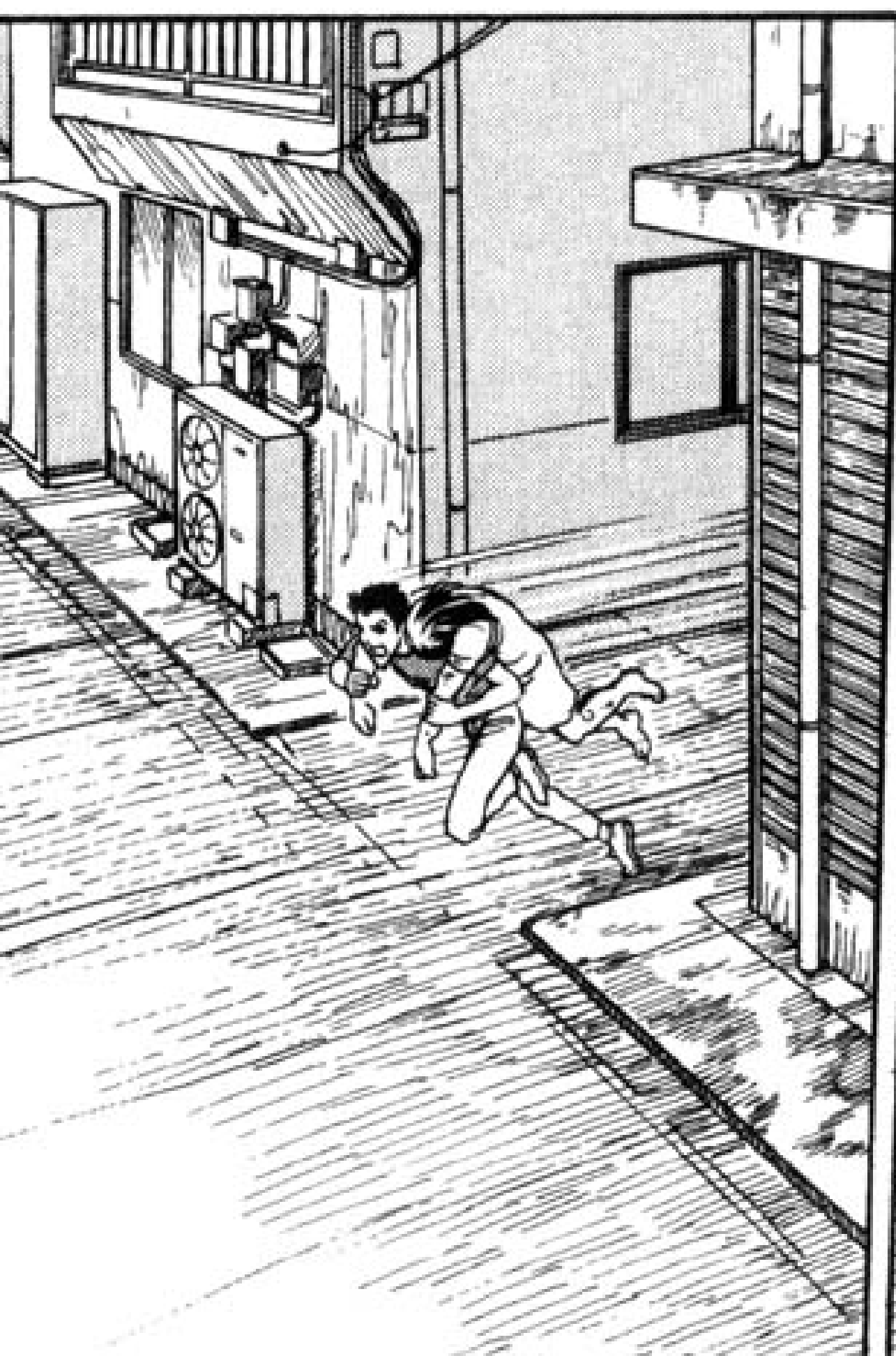


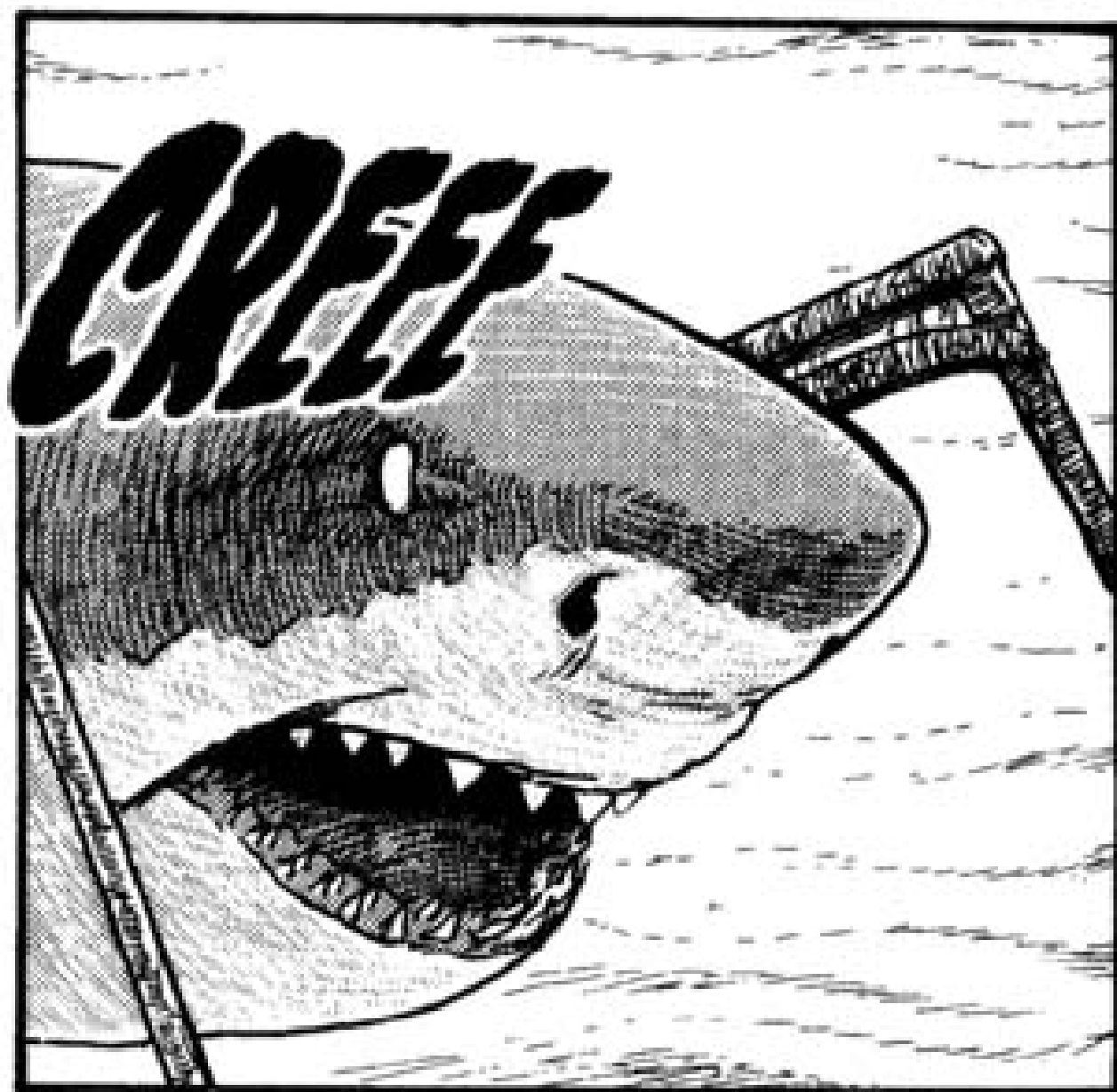
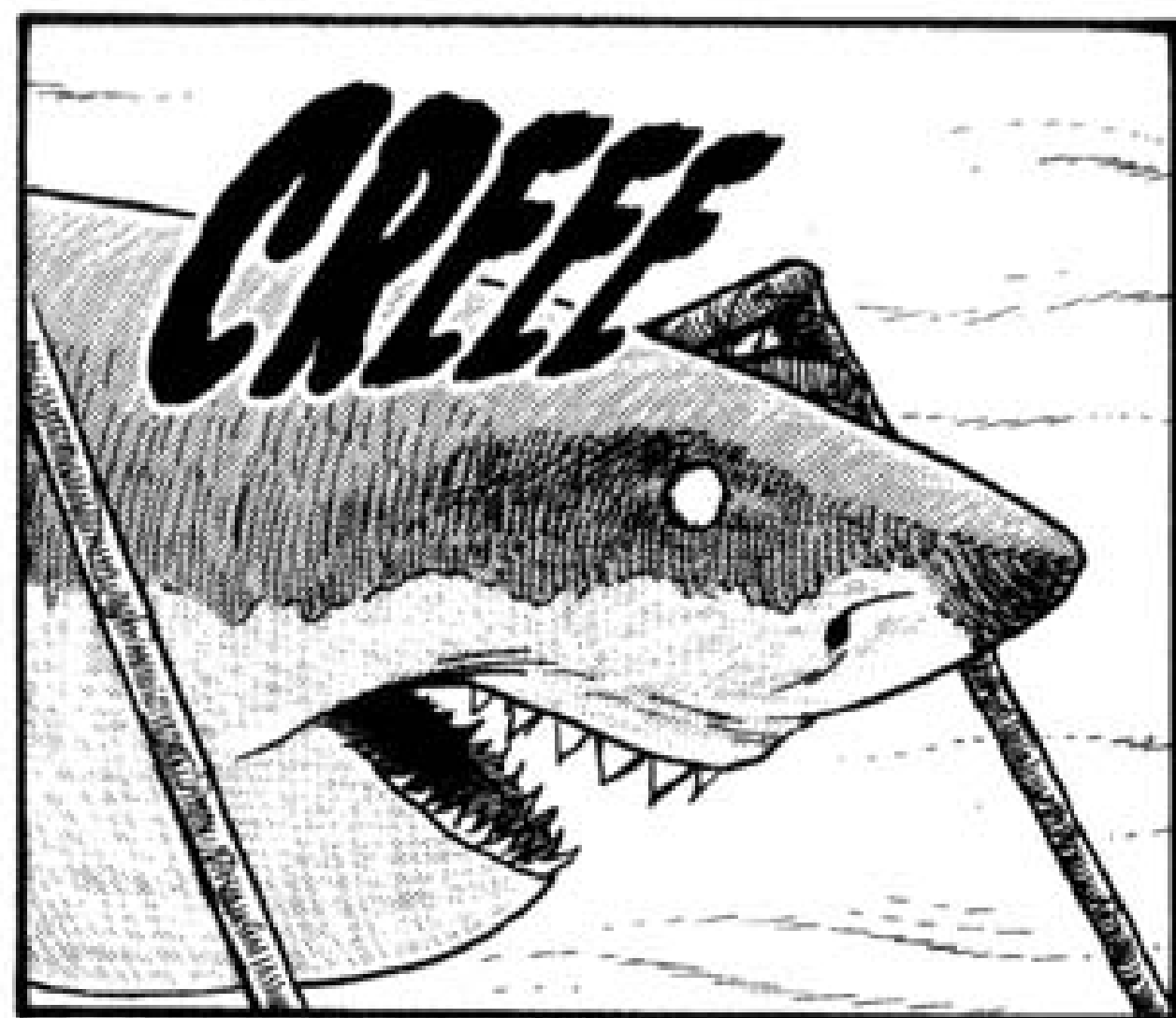
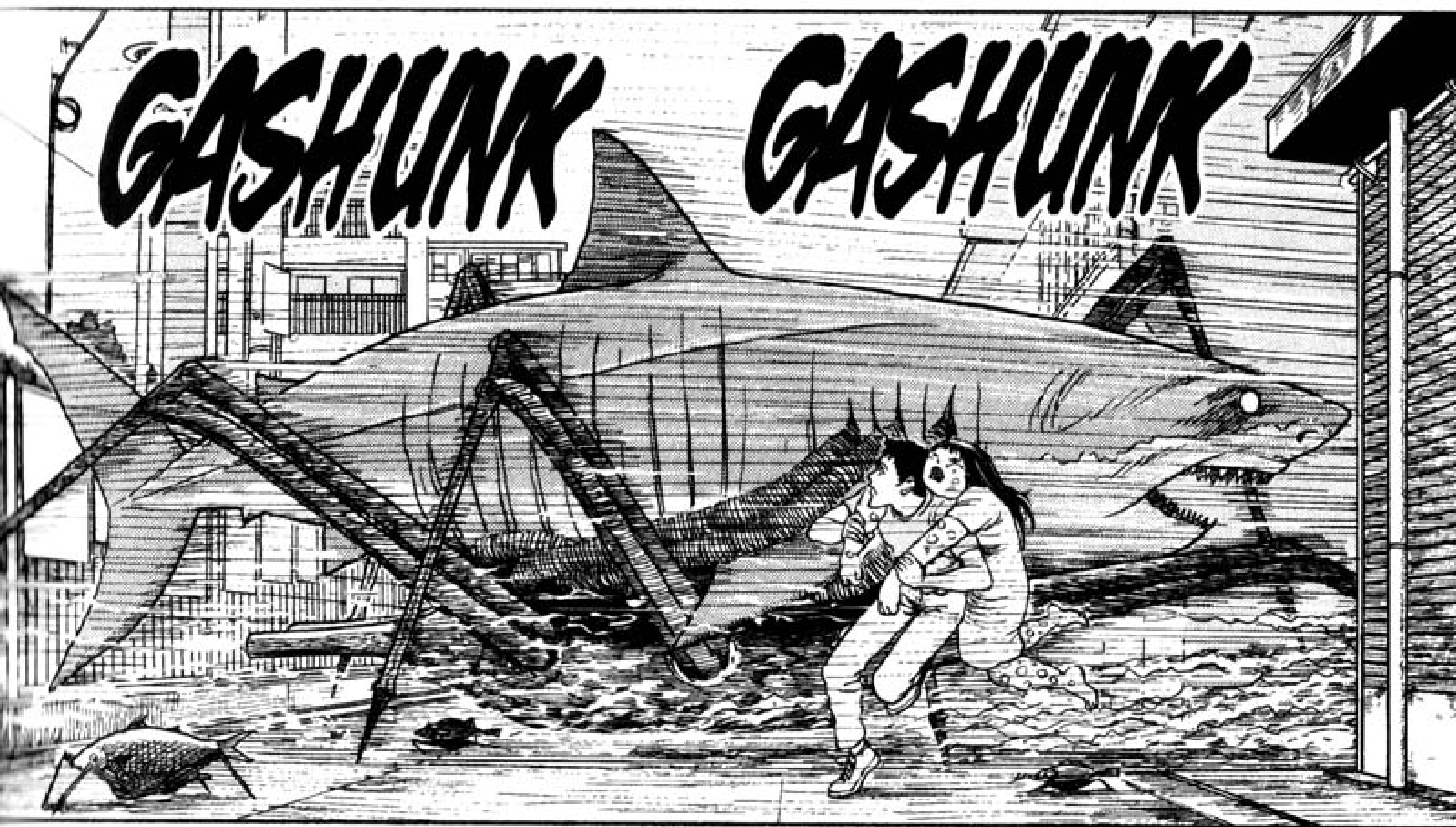






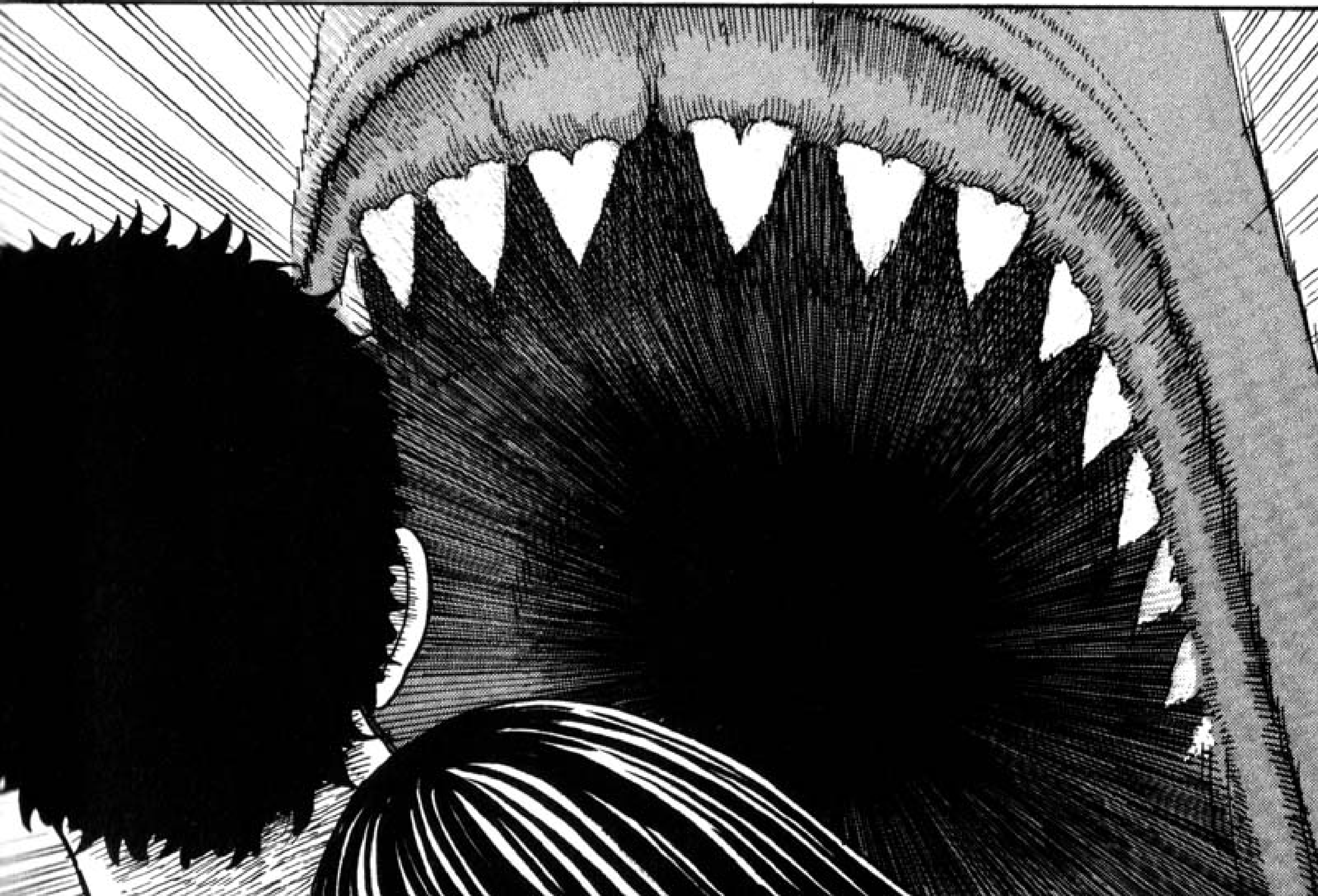
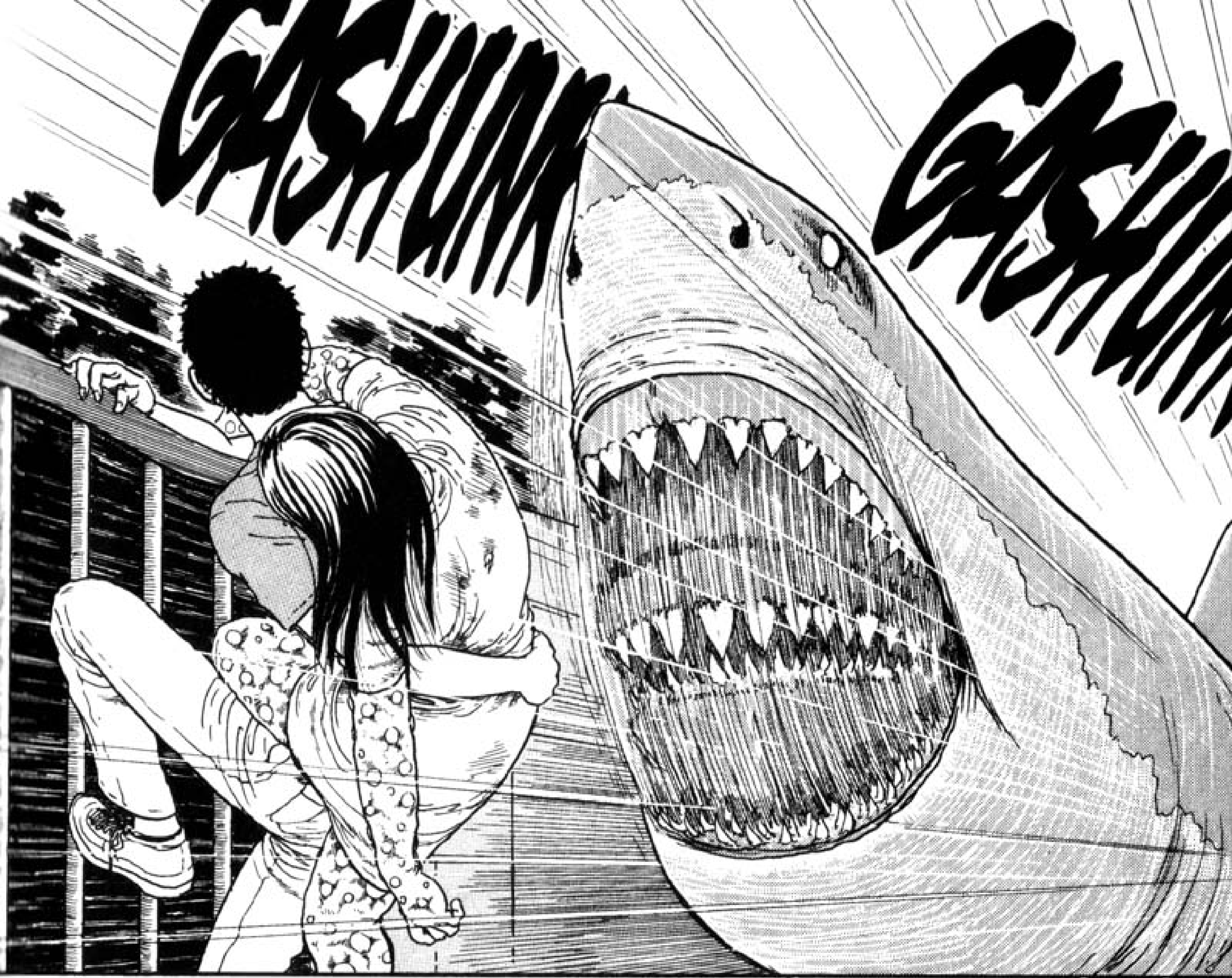
**WAAGH!**

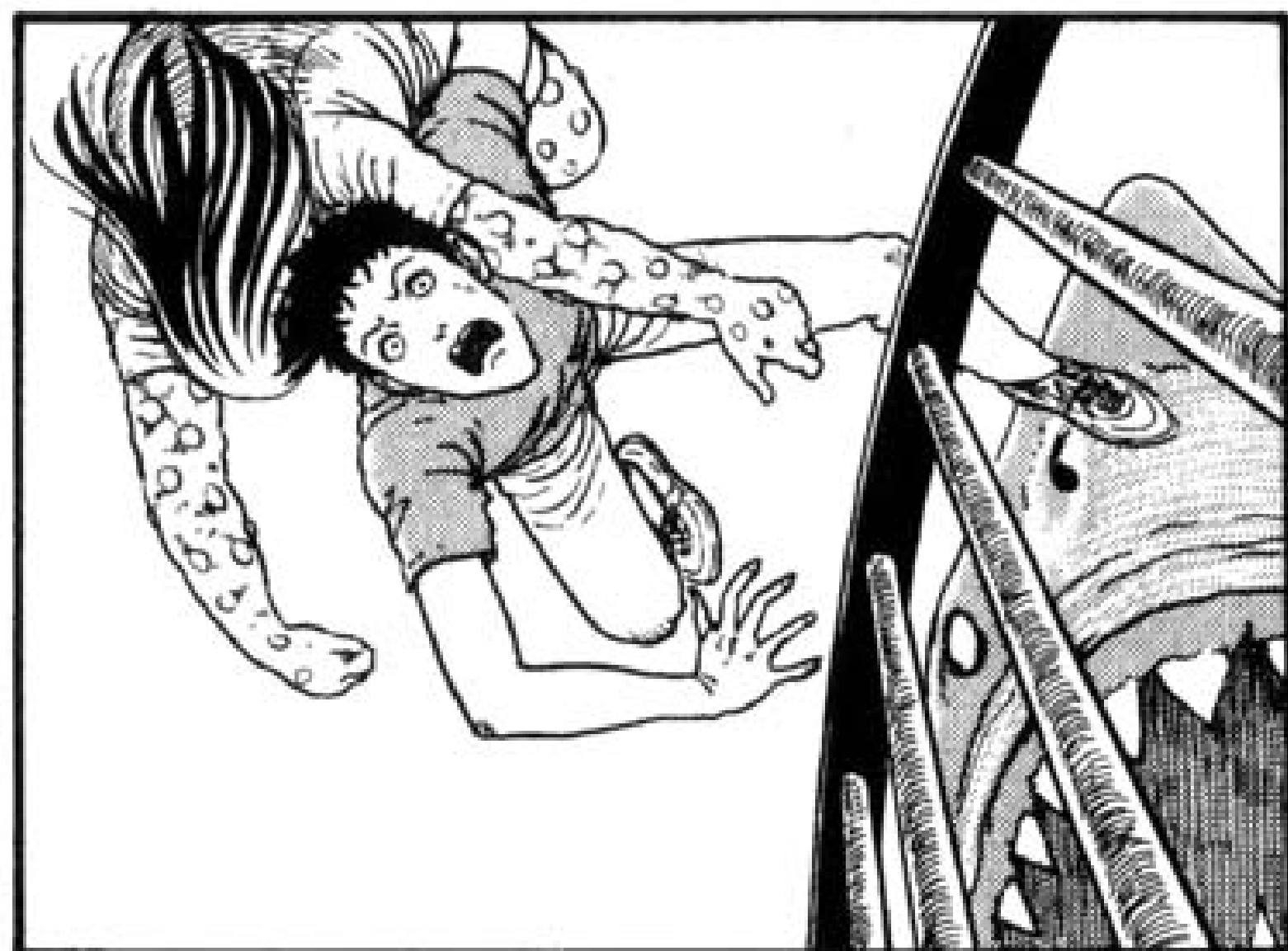
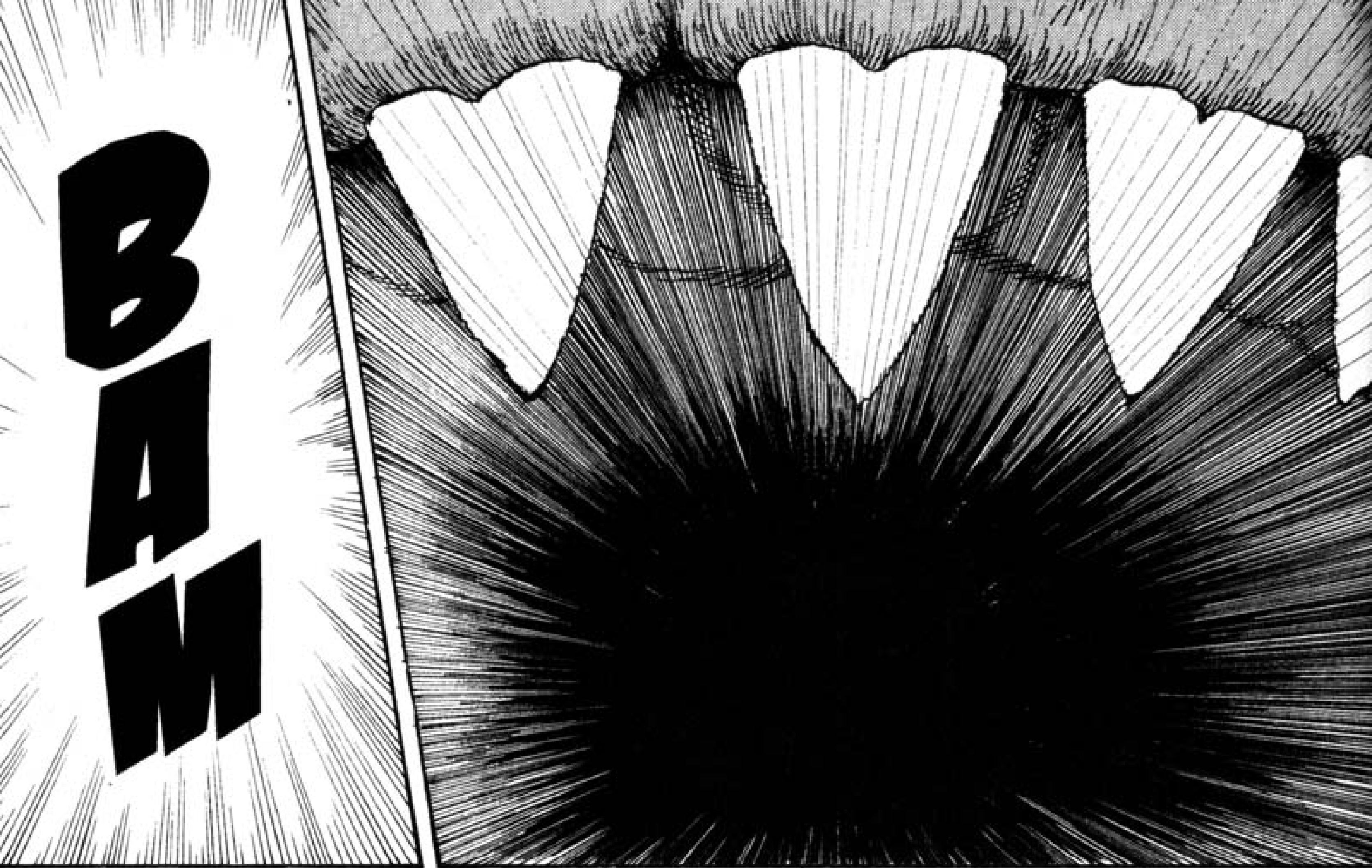
















WE  
NEED  
TO CALL  
AN AMBU-  
LANCE!!

TADASHI  
...WHAT  
IS IT?



KAORI...  
KAORI'S  
DYING!!

YOSHIYAMA  
...A SHARK  
CHASED  
ME  
HERE...



UNCLE!



I'M  
GOING  
WITH  
YOU!

NO,  
YOU  
STAY  
HERE.



YOSHIYAMA,  
CAN YOU  
GO GET  
MY CAR?

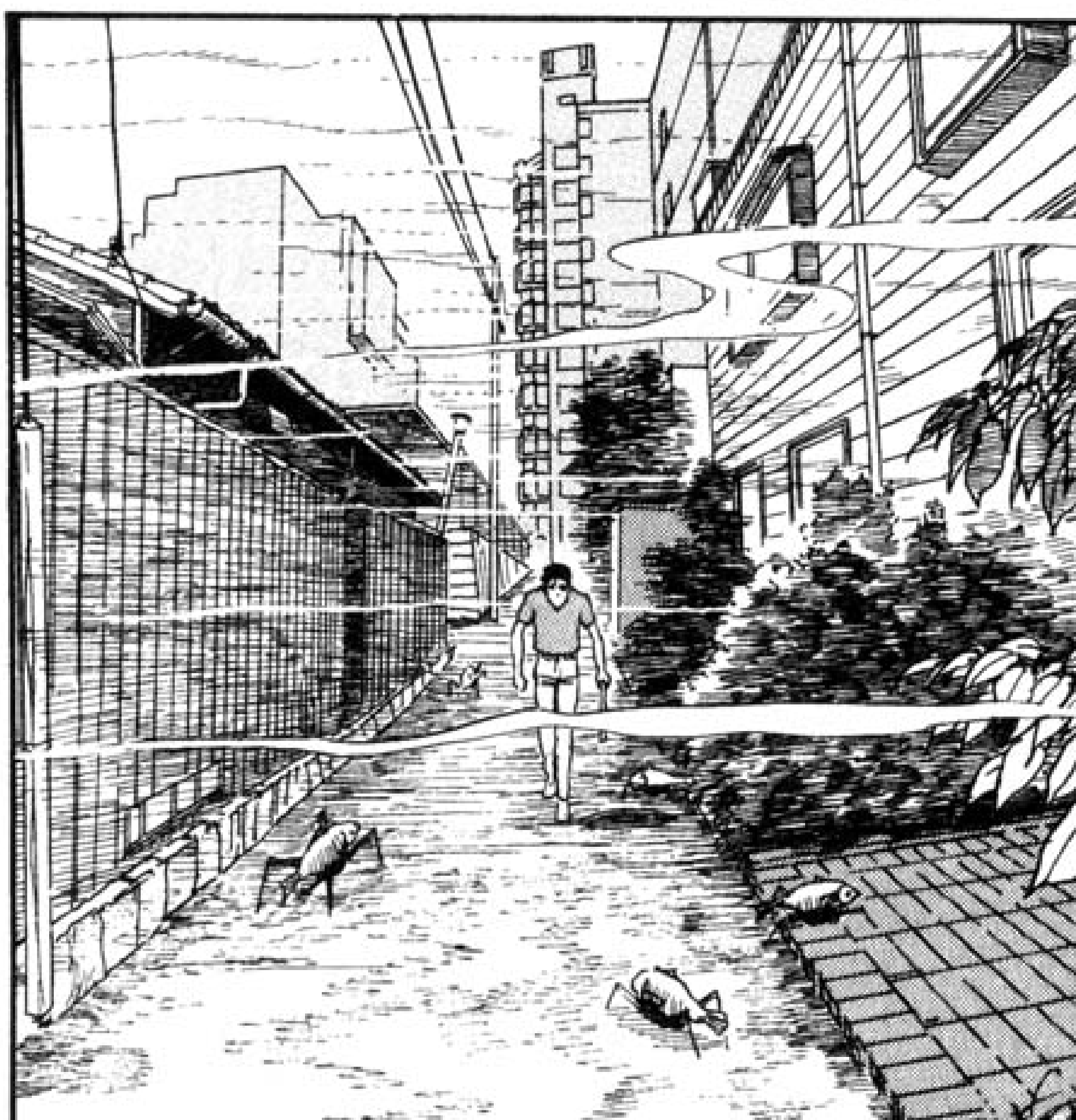
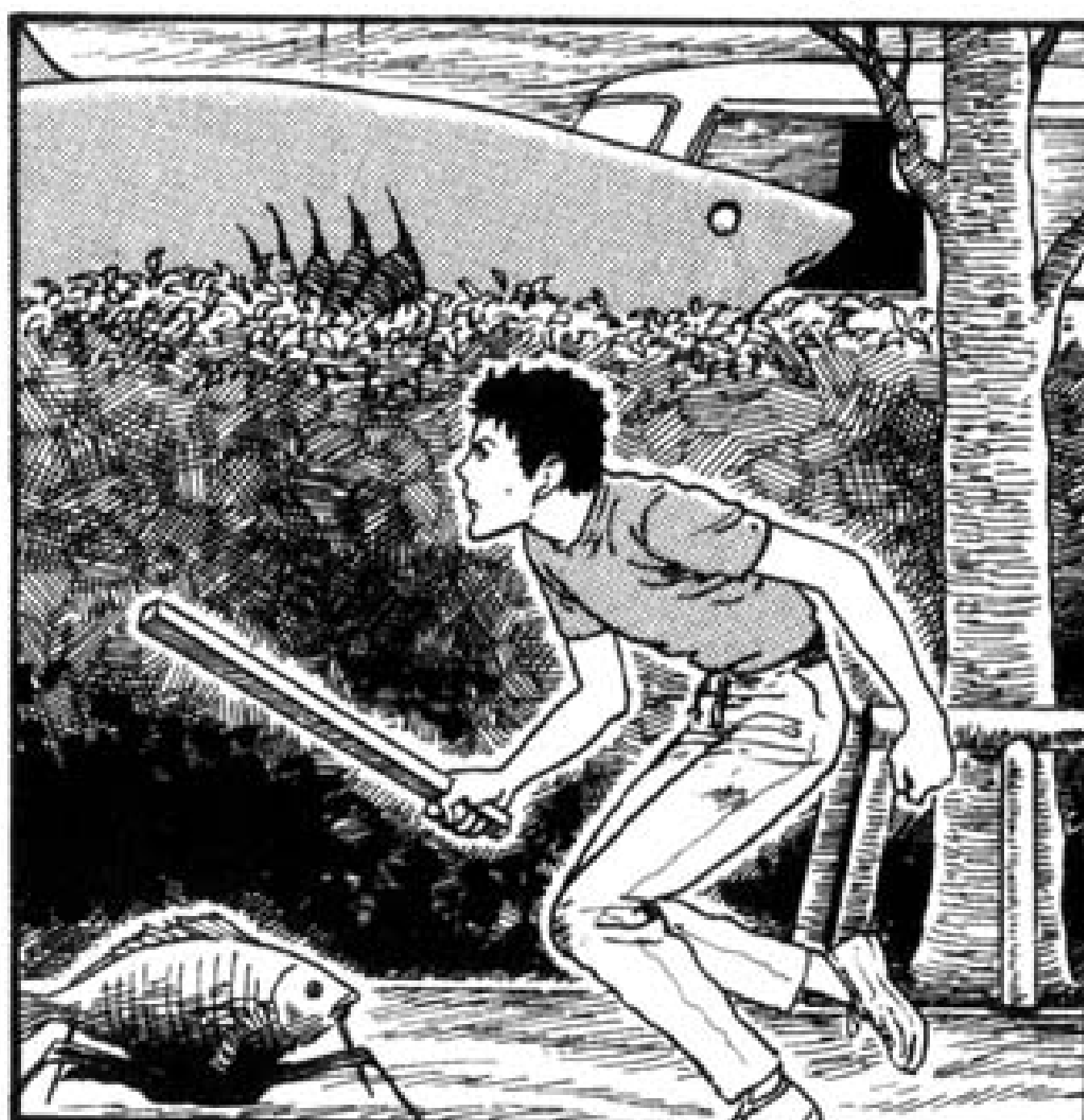
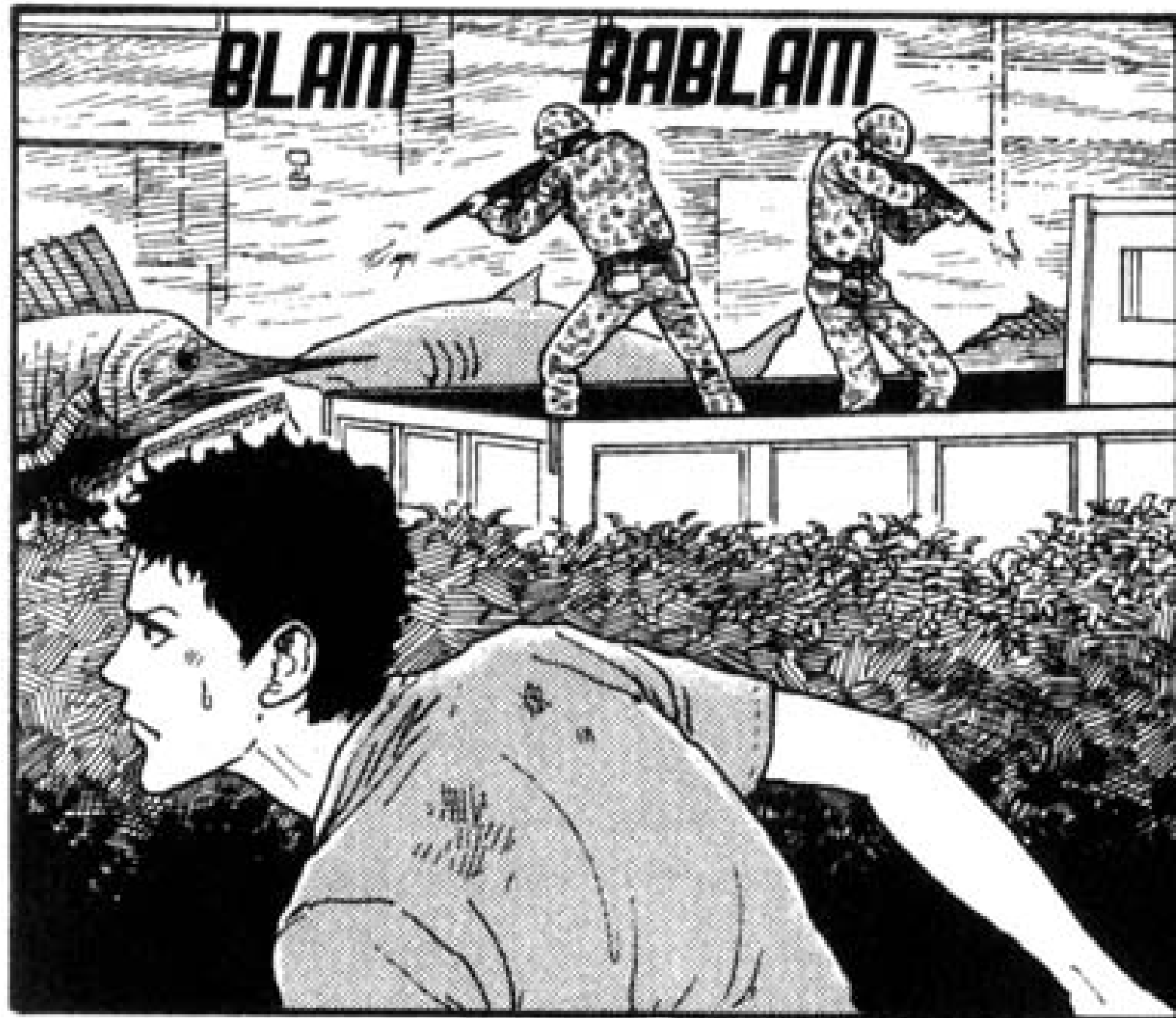
THIS IS  
NOT GOOD...  
ALL RIGHT.  
I'LL TAKE  
HER TO THE  
HOSPITAL.

YES,  
SIR.

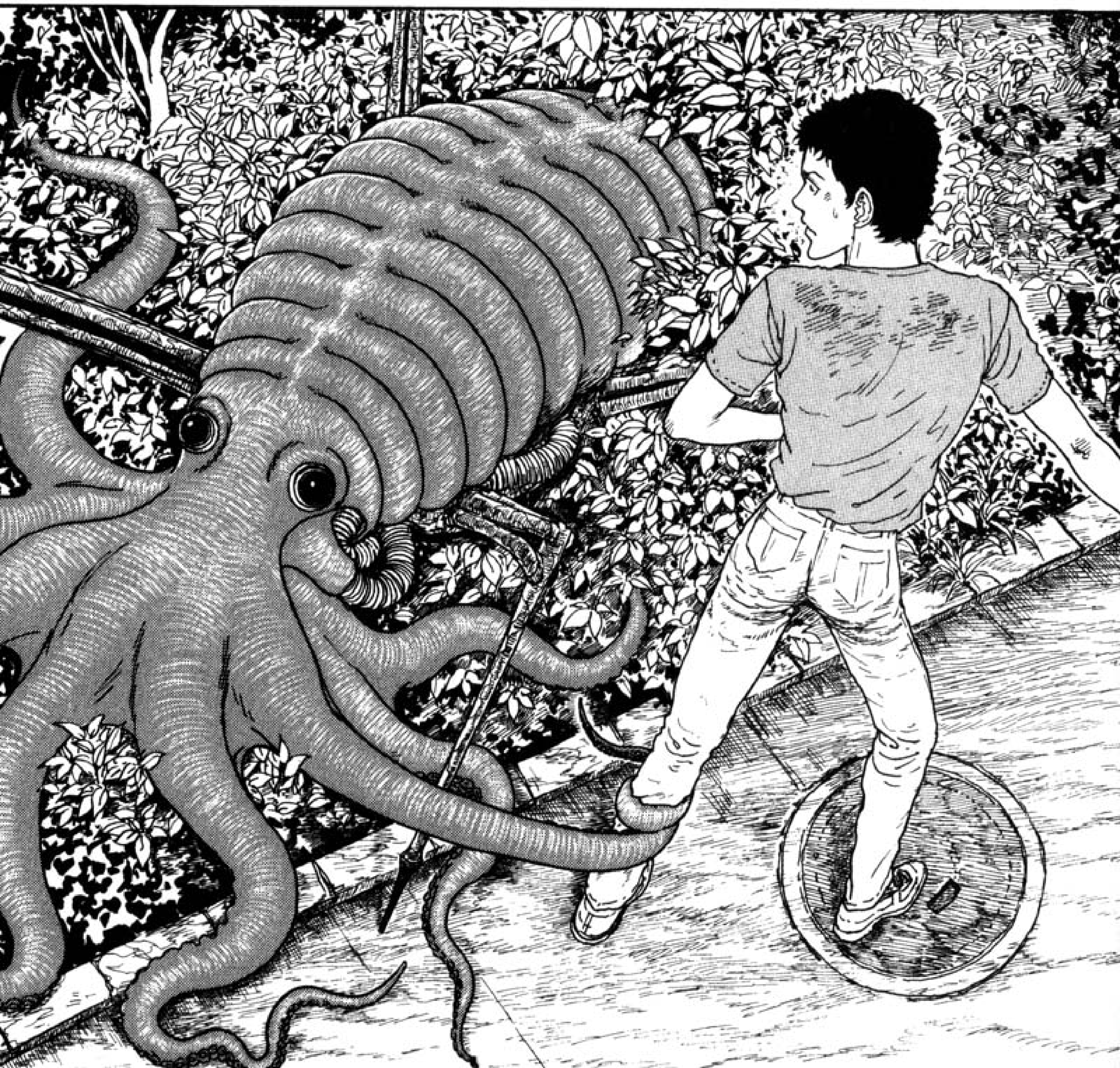
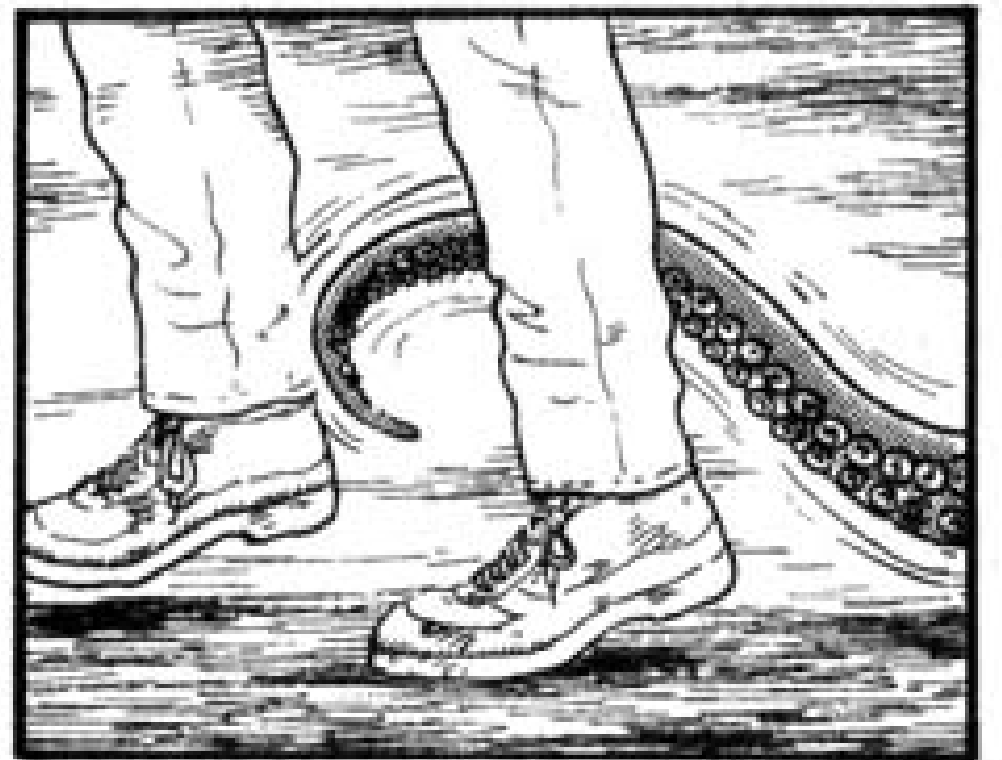
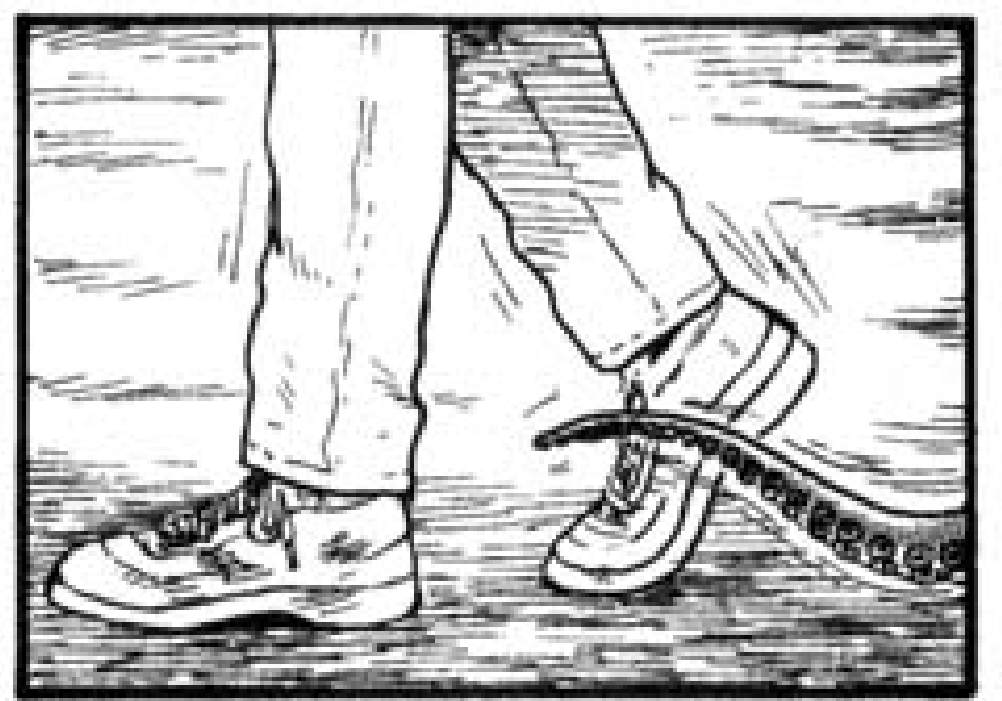
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEM. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GET TO THEIR HOUSE IN KANAGAWA?

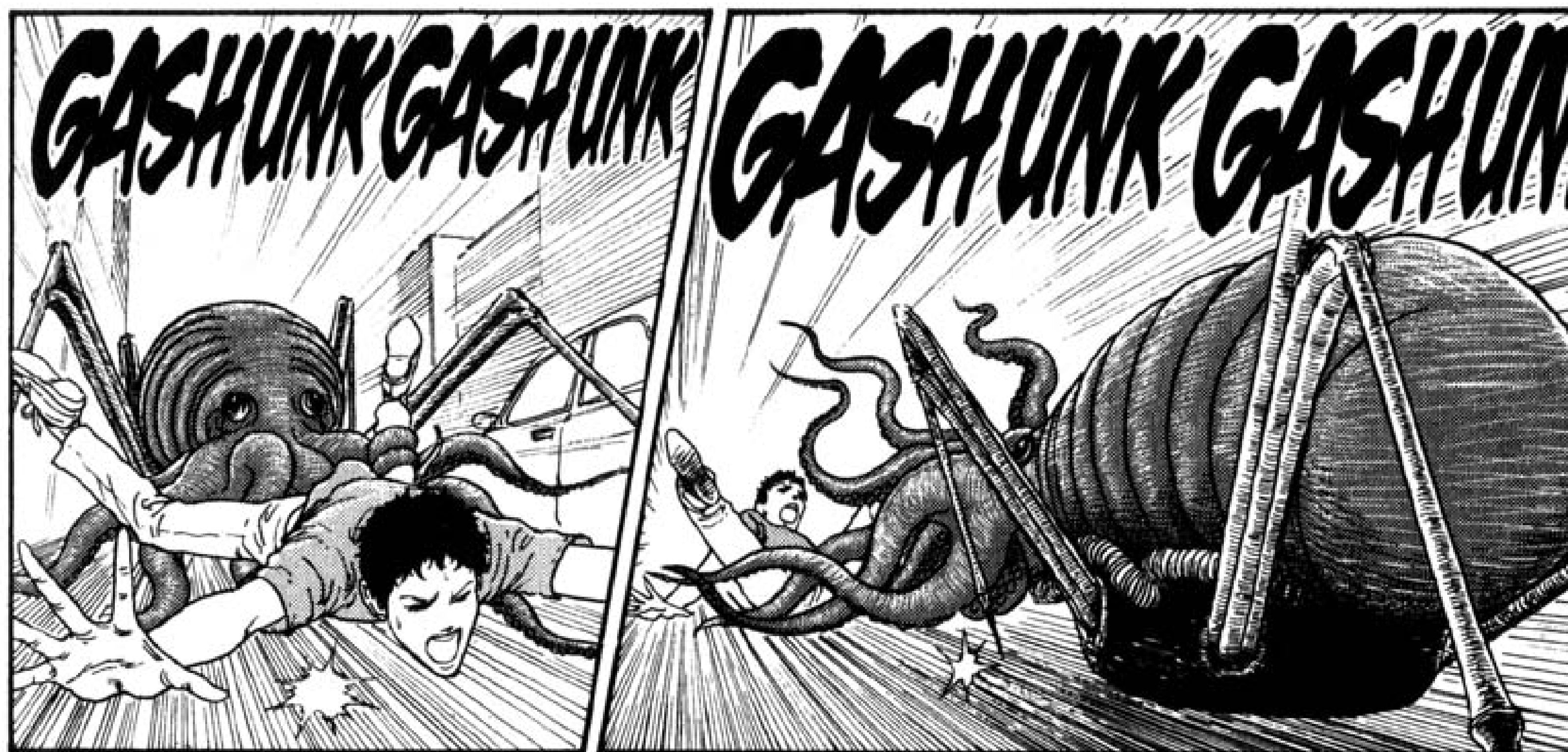
BY THE WAY...I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT YOUR PARENTS.





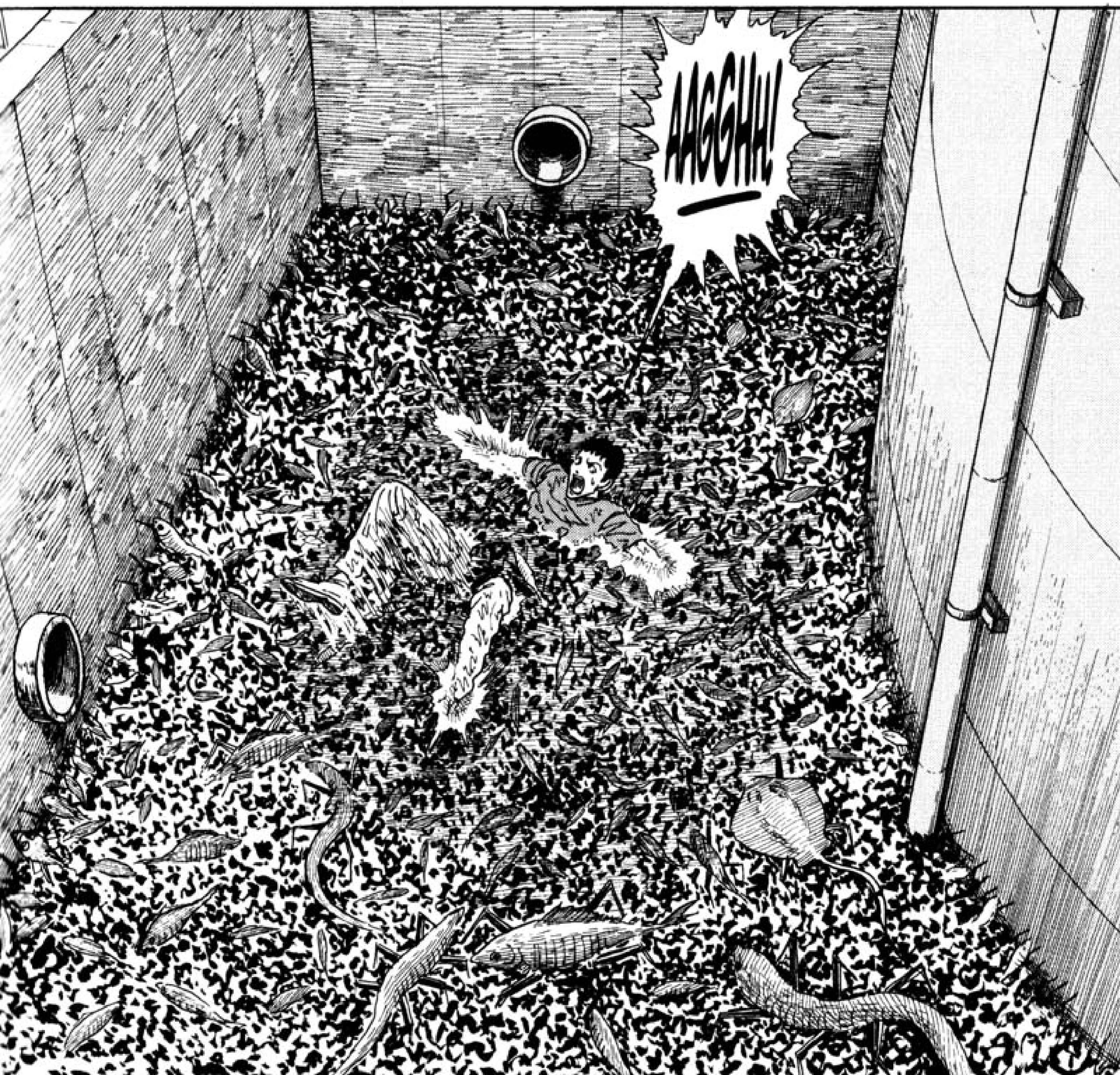


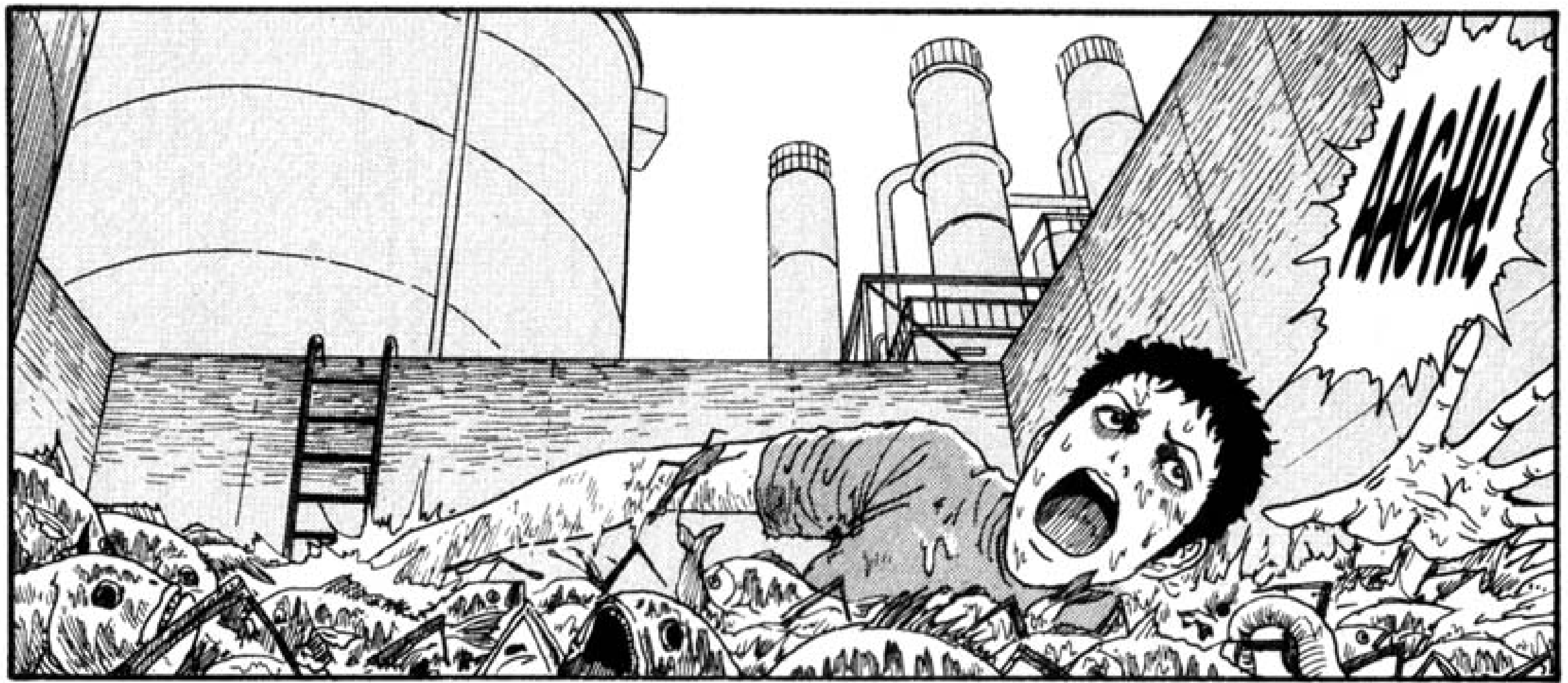


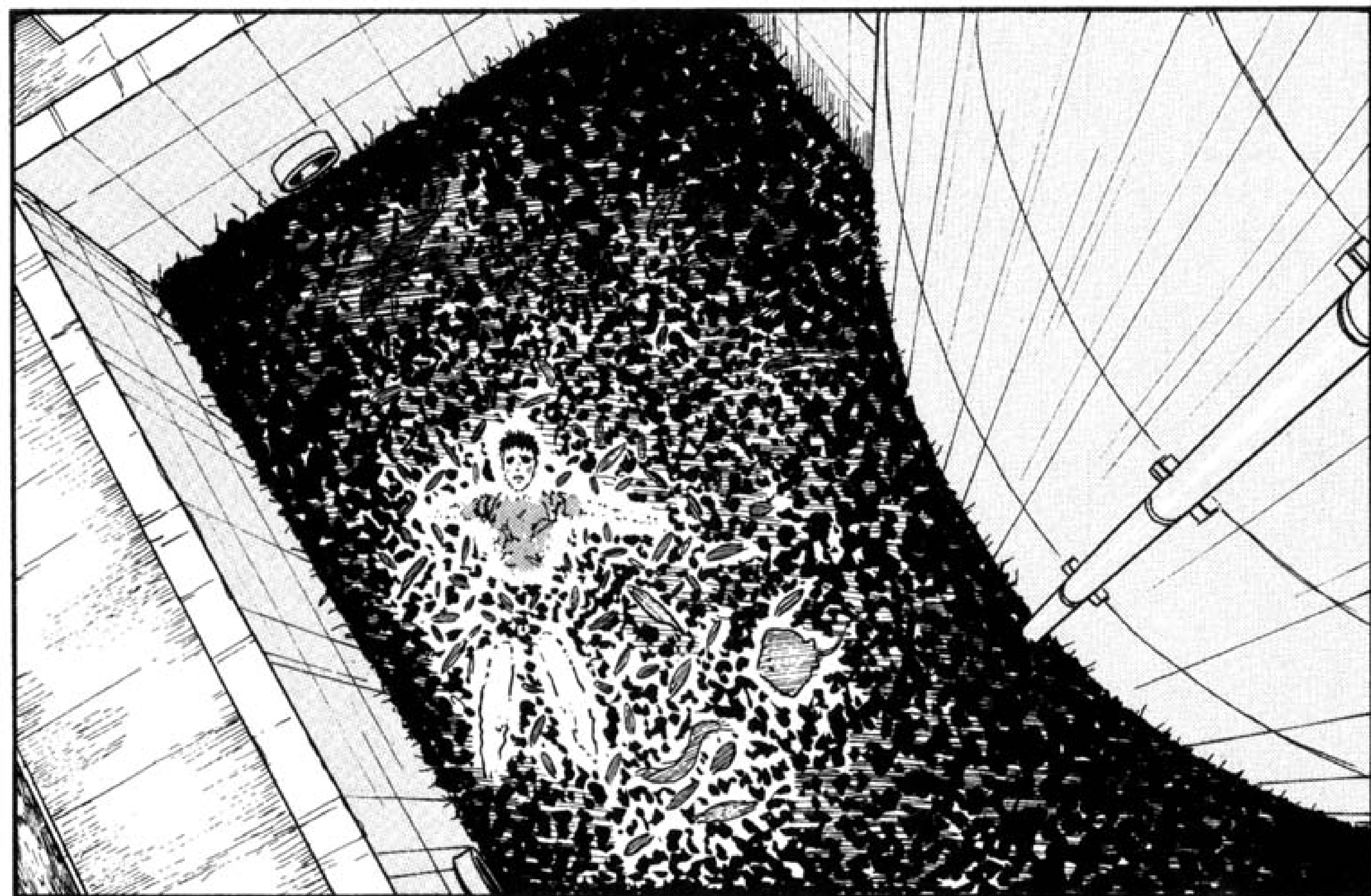
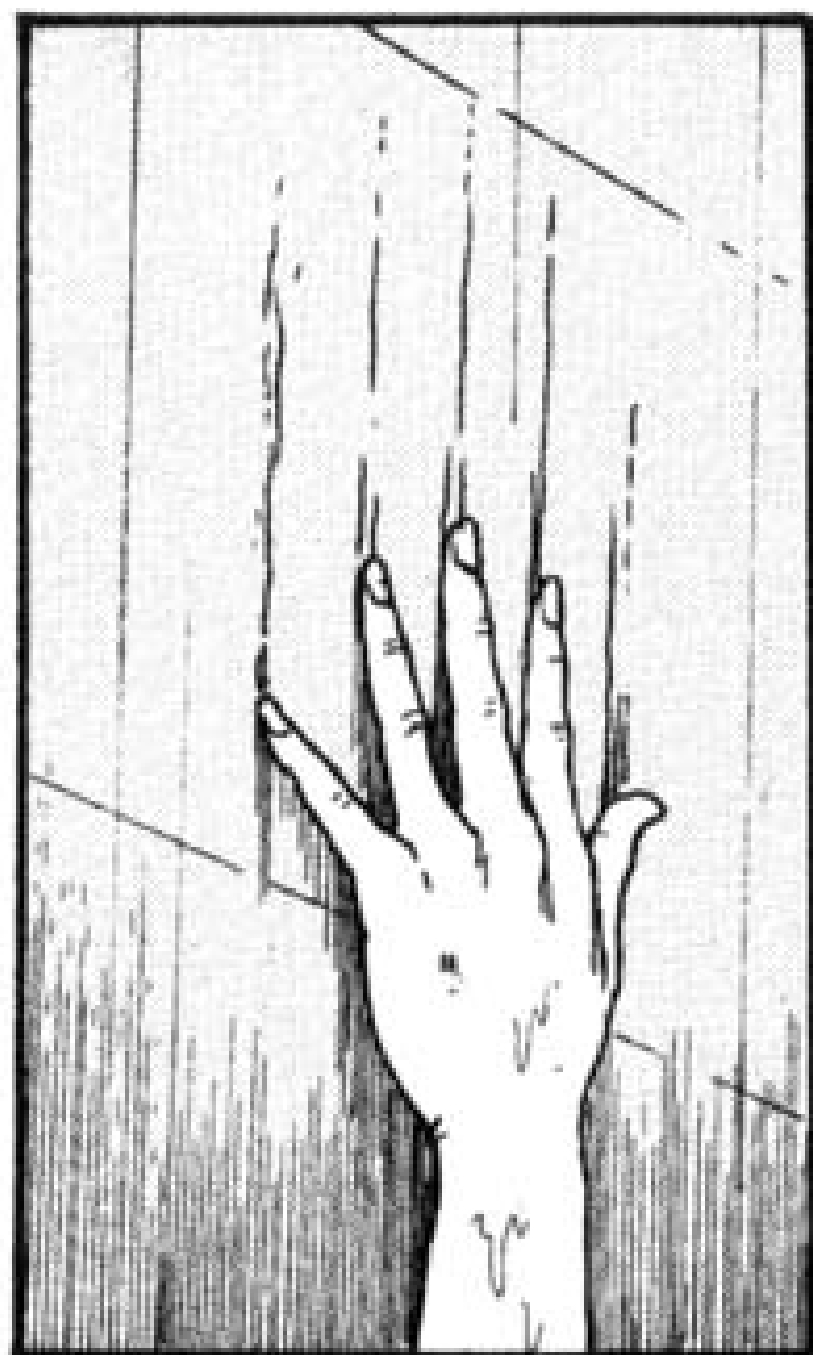












**TO BE CONTINUED...**



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. Beginning with his debut story, “Tomie,” in 1987, Ito has gone on to become Japan’s leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu ( *Orochi* ) and Hideshi Hino ( *Hell Baby* ), and the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito’s works have been published to critical acclaim in English in the United States, including *Tomie* and *Uzumaki* , which has been nominated for the Eisner Award and was also made into a live-action film.